

MINUTES

Bureau meeting 7 December 2020

Online

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

Excused: Antoaneta Asenova (AA) due to personal reasons.

This bureau meeting was supposed to take place in Stockholm in person after the ALDE Congress 2020. However, since the Congress was postponed and due to the current situation with COVID, the Bureau meeting will be held online.

Meeting starts at 19 h 00

1) Finances - 20 minutes (MP)

- Closing of the financial year:

MP explains that there is not that much unusual to report on, we are moving towards closing the year and will therefore focus on the bookkeeping and financial implications it has together with BG. We received the notary bill, it is around what we expected so that's fine.

We will have a call with LH to finalise the last things in terms of closing. She will support the process since it is the first time for MP.

- Decision on end year bonus for SG:

The Bureau decides on providing the end-year bonus for BG. The calculations will be made by the Social Secretariat.

- Internal and External Audits updates:

- MP explains that we will be probably going fully online for the Internal Audit. There is a lack of response from the auditors so far for this. We will send them a reminder again.
- Regarding the external Audit, we reached out to them for a technical issue. We are checking with them also if we should expect an in-person or online audit. We will be probably deciding on that early January, after the holidays.

2) Decision on the website - 15 minutes (MP)

*** An overview document including presentation and analysis of the two offers received was sent to the Bureau before the meeting by MP ***

MP explains that as highlighted, we have two options: a person or a company.

- The person is cheaper and the website might look better based on the examples we have but that's an important risk to have only one person working on this important project.
- The company from Romania has made other websites for other organisations in the liberal network which is also a positive point for them.

DAS comments that when it's one person, they might be more available, that can be a plus. However, with an independent person, they might raise the price when they have several projects at the same time. He sees + and -

with both. Given that we aren't that big and that active on our website, maybe the independent person might be sufficient for us.

IH adds that realistically, it won't stay within the proposed budget. It doubled the budget last time with Dan. Estimations weren't accurate enough, the end price might be different again.

IS thinks that smaller companies, or one person works when we work on smaller projects but the website will be a huge project. We have to import everything and create new tools and more interaction. There is a lot we want to do with it. The company would make sense for her. NationBuilder is quite user-friendly and we will be able to manage it easier.

BG explains how the hosting is and that we have a sub-nation on the ALDE NationBuilder.

MP says that the issue if we don't want either of them - we don't know who else to contact.

The Bureau decides that we will go with the Atelieru (Romanian company) option as a safer and more stable choice for us at this stage.

The process will be as follows: We will get back to them and ask for a call meeting to discuss the wish list and put things into motion.

3) ELF - 15 minutes (IH, BG)

- YCA III:

- IH explains that we had a lot of positive feedback- it went well. We had a few hiccups in the bilateral talks but we managed to deliver them. Feedback on the evaluation survey from participants wasn't received yet, we follow up on that. They received a surprise package with their T-shirts. Promotional videos will be ready soon and the wrap-up for the beginning of next week.
- IS adds that YCA was amazing and she heard very good evaluations, the organiser team should be proud.
- LC emphasizes that one of the participants wrote an article about her project and it will be published on Libertas in January 2021.

- YLM additional activity:

DAS and BG gave an update on the overview document on e-governance realised by Kevin, one of our speakers and former LYMEC Bureau member. There will be a design also in the format of an infographic. We should also promote it with some paid ads on social media once ready and published.

- Final reports ELF projects:

All reports were delivered to ELF on time for all projects 2020, we can focus on closing the financial aspects of the year. A few items are still outstanding.

- Bilateral talks "Values first":

Short reporting on the first talk with Samira Rafaela that took place before the Bureau meeting and discussion on the improvements to make for the second and third talks. It should be less Powerpoint focused and more recommendation and decision-making oriented. We need to foster interactions and engagement from both sides.

4) Policy book renewal process - 15 minutes (MS)

MS explains that we received 24 applications this time for this process. We have a lot of resolutions to work on and not a lot of time. MS will reach out to Lucasta to start setting up 4-5 resolutions for groups of 2 people each.

We have 57 resolutions to go through in total. The goal is to finish with chapter 2 and do chapter 10. There will be different milestones and phases but the timeline is short. There can only be one week between the final results and tabling for Digital Assembly which takes place on 30 January.

LC supports MS with the experience of the working group in previous processes.

MS, LC and Lucasta will work on it in a meeting tomorrow first to put the process into motion. IH will step in if needed after.

5) European Youth Forum - 10 minutes (IH)

- Report from the YFJ GA:

- Simon was elected, it was a lot of work but this gives us a direct link to talk to in the YFJ Board. He is eager to get the political youth organisations more active and involved. Simon will keep us updated on his work at the YFJ Board.
- Not a lot of surprises for the Board elections and about who else got in.
- A few resolutions were passed on participation, Roma people.

- Next year:

- The next COMEM Council will be in April probably in Brussels. There will be many positions to be elected so over 40 candidates for the Advisory Council of Youth are to be foreseen.
- We might want to run a liberal candidate.

MS reminds us that preparation in advance is important because we will be very busy at that time in April with ALDE and LYMEC Congresses.

IH asks if we would be up to run a candidate? Or rather a co-nomination with IFLRY?

The Bureau agrees that we would be open to nominate or co-nominate a suitable candidate together with IFLRY.

6) WG civil and minority rights event - 5 minutes (IS)

IS explains that last week, a meeting with the European Union of Jewish Students took place. It was a very good discussion with the working group members, they were keen to learn more about the topic and our guests were keen to answer all questions.

The idea is to work further on the definition of anti-Semitism. They offered to join a Bureau meeting. This topic has been accepted by a lot of parties and the European Parliament. It's not controversial for us to accept it too according to her. The goal is to have a comprehensive document on what antisemitism is and what actions would be considered antisemitic. Important for an organisation like ours to adopt this and to show that we are taking a stance.

MS comments that we wouldn't need a Bureau presentation for them but it would be good to have a resolution that could even be broader than this topic.

IS reminds that if we write a resolution with several minority groups then it wouldn't be that relevant for them anymore so that would be a risk.

MS proposes the work on a resolution in the working group so that the Bureau is not involved in the topic. It is important to show that we want to cooperate with them, it's a big topic. We could also do social media on this and ask in our MOs if there are inputs on antisemitism.

IS adds that the working group wants to invite other religious groups as well.
At the end, it is up to the working group to do what they want.

The Bureau agrees that we will have to think more about it and the working group will come up with a proper concept for this topic to be shared at another Bureau meeting.

7) Licence to heal - 5 minutes (MS)

MS explains that the License to heal group reached out to us again. They asked if we could maybe give some contact persons from Renew to talk about that matter.

MS explains further that she wanted the opinion of the Bureau on that. It is in our policy book, it was adopted in Stockholm at our Congress. With COVID we need to also focus on this topic. Medication affordability and accessibility to everyone is a fundamental issue. It is also an opportunity, beyond the partnership, to do some policy and publicity on our side as well.

DAS comments that this would enter into our target to be more political. We need a concept now on how to do it.

MS adds that it's also something we have in the Jcs post-COVID project. We could use that as well and in cooperation with them. We indeed need to come up with a concept.

LC proposes to use our policy book and say it as a liberal response on human right to health. We can be politically creative not to fall in the leftist narrative.

The Bureau agrees that we should look into the COVID projects and find a concrete idea to reach out to MEPs and cooperate with this organisation. We will need a concept. MS will work on it.

8) Libertas - 15 minutes (LC)

LC explains the new proposal for Libertas based on what Lucasta has been working on.

The background:

- a. We started again Libertas with the new Bureau - it had to be revived;
- b. LC fixed some KPIs to have proper frames and targets to follow;
- c. Now we have 2 articles a month and we have different kinds of published articles/interviews.

LC stresses that we are lucky to have LB in our team, she had amazing ideas. In fact, she has 3 years of experience in an Editorial Team.

Several points of reform proposed:

- A) **Libertas to be exploited as a brand** to go beyond our members but also for social media. It would be following the path of Libel.
We should have a new **platform** instead of going on the LYMEC website;

MP clarifies that it isn't worth the hassle to have a separate website, we should maybe present it better.

BG proposes to use the existing tools and stay in the frame of the budgets we have.

IS adds that we should make Libertas more visible on our future website instead of doing something now. It would be smart to have everything at the same place also human resource wise. Own brand would be interesting but LYMEC brand is important too.

DAS highlights the issue is the low traffic, he suggests we should move forward with the proposals and heavy marketing of what we have, continued flow on content and marketing on social media. Best option from money and HR perspectives is also to make a new marketing strategy with videos. It's rather a visibility issue and not that it's hard to find.

MS adds that it's too expensive to have our own blog/website. Libertas should be put forward in our newsletter to highlight the articles or even have its own newsletter.

- B) It should not only have an editorial team but also allow sporadic contributions. The ***editorial team should be reserved to a core team***;
- C) We should also reform the structure and have the figure of the ***Editor in chief*** to take up some work from Laia who stays coordinator. Someone from the Editorial team or outside should fill that position. For the next 6 months, Lucasta will be doing it to have a smooth transition and use her expertise. The Bureau will be taking care of appointing this person at a later stage;
- D) ***Submission guidelines*** were prepared by Lucasta so that actors willing to write have a set of rules to respect. Sectoral division will be suggested in the Editorial team when the team will be bigger.
- E) Linguistic and fake news ***proofreading*** will be needed as well in the future to ensure consistency and quality.
- F) End of the year, we will publish a ***PDF as Libertas magazine*** to be distributed in a digital format.
- G) We will in addition use the ***Social Media calendar*** to keep up on the important international days and provide articles when relevant.

9) Invitations - 5 minutes

- Signature of the open letter for the support of the Uyghurs communities from EUJS
- MS/BG discussed it and it would be good to sign if we discuss it also with IFLRY.
- IS emphasizes that it is a big and important issue for years and nothing has really happened. It is also discussed in the EP so very relevant for us as well to take a stance. We need to be more consistent on where we take a stance and where not. IFLRY is also present in the Asian region, we might want to reach out to them also before we sign. We should ask if it's okay and hear their opinion. We should reach out to both IFLRY and CALD youth.
- MP has a strong feeling that we can't ignore such genocide, it is a hard line to draw. We should speak out because it is important.
- DAS adds that the EU has been dealing with this as well because it is such an important issue.

The Bureau decides to reach out to IFLRY and youth of CALD. We want to sign but we want to honour our agreement and check if they would also sign it and would feel comfortable that we sign as well.

10) News from MOs and IMS - 5 minutes

Cooperation projects open call:

- IH explains that she was contacted by organizations on the cooperation project and the good news is that there are MOs working on drafting a concept.

IMS:

- IMS Christmas party will take place on the 18th of December.
- Changing IMS Internal rules is on its way in order to adapt to the latest issues with a member in the section.
- Working group on CAP to be launched by IMS but the MOs will be involved as well. Alistair is in charge ensuring that it stays balanced.
- Elections in January for new delegates, the current delegates have no time so we need new candidates to apply.

11) Next Bureau meeting - 5 minutes

The next Bureau meeting will be online on **11 January at 19 h CET**.

12) AOB

Office end of year permanency:

- Lucasta is off on Friday and next Tuesday;
- Annemiek is off next week but Tuesday;
- The office then closes **fully** for two entire weeks - back on 4 January.

Membership survey on MOs:

- We will send it a bit earlier this year, in December - it will be open for 4 weeks and the deadline is on the 18th of January for MOs to complete it.

End meeting at 21 h 30