

# Minutes - BM - LYMEC

## 5 July 2019

Present: Svenja Hahn, President (HH), Edgaras Mascinkas, Vice President (EM), Lena Höglund, Treasurer (LH), Dan-Aria Sucuri, Bureau Member (DAS), Antoaneta Asenova, Bureau Member (AA), Deimante Rimkute, Bureau Member (DR), Pau Castellvi Canet, Bureau Member (PCC).

Also present: Danica Vihinen/Bàlint Gyévai, Secretary General (DV/BG).

### Update after the elections

#### • Update from EP (SH)

##### 1.SH

- Ciolos' first intervention was very liberal and progressive.
- The committees and its leadership are now clearly defined.
- SH and AA will check which MEPs can be considered as allies.
- The presence of quite a lot of young MEPs is good for LYMEC.
- A dinner will be organized end of July with under 35 years MEPs.
- SH will try to be in the Board (vice-Chair) of the **youth intra-group**.

On another note, SH is in the Board to define the **Youth Capital** for 2022 on behalf of the YFJ.

SH will be a full member of Internal market committee and substitute in Trade committee. SH will try to get youth topics, entrepreneurship files etc.

Parliament has now the strongest position in the process of electing the President of the Commission. On the long-term, treaty reform might be a solution if there is a real commitment. That would be a better approach than blocking Von der Leyen's appointment. EP could be seen as blocking the whole process. Next week she will be meeting the Renew Europe group. Questions can be collected and she replies. We could ask on behalf of LYMEC too.

**2. DV:** We need to be vocal on what the "European convent" would mean.

**3. LH:** Credibility of the EU and politicians in general will be questioned if fraud issues are real for Von Der Leyen. The process didn't convince the audience at all.

**4. AA:** Digital files might be weakened because of the President's stance.

**5. PC:** Borrell was appointment as HR. He is suspected of tax fraud and a bit old (72 years old). He opposes Kosovo and he also banalized colonisation. In his role as foreign minister of Spain, he authorized cooperation with Russia.

**6. SH:** Explanation on the votes for President and Vice-Presidents of the EP: Deal to support each other candidate between EPP, S/D, Renew Europe was made. Hungarian Fidesz MEP from EPP was elected, there was no time to discuss their candidacy. Katka raised awareness amongst group members. Voting system need to be improved and further discussion is needed.

**7. PC:** 3 MEPs from Catalonia weren't (vote of 2.2 million people) allowed to take their seats. 10 000 catalans were in Strasbourg to protest. Political rights - they can run but they have to go back to Madrid (Spanish electoral Board) to take up their mandate. They would be jailed in Spain because they are on exil. 4 to 6 months process in front of the CJUE - extraordinary process was launched. All MEPS from Junts (3 by Brexit) are on exil.

## • **Update from ALDE Party BM (SH)**

**SH:** She didn't attend the one after the Council and nothing new to highlight from the previous one.

## • **Update from ALDE Council (LH)**

**LH:**

- Contacts were made with **USR** from Romania - Svenja made a message to the youth branch to encourage cooperation with us.
- Membership application from **Grüne liberalen** from Switzerland: values and positioning are more like Radicalen in Denmark. The party was founded in 2016 and are expected to go on government. It's a social liberal party. **FDP** Switzerland is more right-wing.

***Both became member of the ALDE Party at the Council meeting.***

- The Maltese and the Georgian organizations were downgraded to affiliate members.

We invited the youth branch of Grüne liberalen to Sarajevo and further events to get to know each other. This needs to be explained to youth FDP. They will send someone to autumn Congress.

- The Estonians (set to form government with extreme-right) sent a minister who defended the position of the party. He stated that by cooperating, the extreme-right might calm down. There is however a planning to change rules on same sex marriage and he stated they don't have position on that. Report will be made on the situation to the Athens Congress.
- **Corporate Sponsorship:** Strong stance in favor from LYMEC. The Treasurer of ALDE to make new proposals on stricter regulation and who can fund us. The goal is to get to the percentage we need according to EP rules.
- Urgency resolutions were adopted.
- The way we are mentioned now is more prominent in the status.
- It should be clear in the future what the tasks are in the ALDE Party Bureau.

*Next ALDE Party Congress will be on 24-26 October 2020 in Stockholm.*

## Tasks and responsibilities (SH/EM)

### • Recap of performances and tasks

1. **SH:** The KPI enable us to check where we stand on what we are working on. Mainly two files we aren't on the top of: files related to PC and DR. DAS and EM handled the Elections part. It's important to reshuffle the tasks and team for the rest of the mandate. We need a discussion on the way to go for the future.
2. **AA:** She will focus on **cleaning the policy book**. She will be contacting again the MO's to see who would be interested in helping (//manifesto). The approach would be to divide the people who would be interested into groups. New resolutions would be welcomed but call to work on what's existing will be launched to end up having one resolution per topic. EM and PC to help AA in this exercise. AA is also in charge of the **Delegation to ALDE Congress**.  
  
**DV:** The work has to be started based on the overview Eleni made before last Congress. If the resolutions are not taking part in the process, we need to get in touch with responsible IO's and send it back.
3. **PC:** Unfortunately, most of his ideas won't be implemented or worked on. This is a major issue for him, he ran for ideas. He is struggling distinguishing his areas of responsibilities. IMS no longer amongst co-responsibilities, EM is in charge and SC is doing more. He would like to take up responsibilities from the YCA project. He likes giving trainings and organize these events. He is going to have more time to dedicate to LYMEC.

**DV:** She reminds that Kialo has to be used. He should maybe take up the tool and present it with further explanations to the Delegates. It should be tested on the IMS.

**SH:** More detached areas are needed for Pau. The summer time should be used to get a concept and set objectives for the Kialo tool. It should be used for cooperation on political and content projects.

4. **DR:** She recognizes the lack of action. She is willing to focus on the future and spend more time on LYMEC. She started working on the **Libertas** project. She is also planning for the **online learning platform**. There should be an online seminar in September. The topics should be suggested through a survey. This would be a pilot project for MO's.

**AA/SH:** We should implement the online tool progressively (first pilot exercise should be the goal). **Libertas** is a priority, we get competition from IFLRY on that respect.

**LH:** The **platform** is not suitable for dry material, we need to understand how to use it. Also, we have a specific subscription that will end.

**DV:** We need to figure out what we do with it first and then we can decide. We could put up material from past events/seminars.

**SH:** We could have speakers giving some key messages (10 minutes key advices/tips) and upload the content on the platform. We could start with that content on the platform. PC could help with this. DAS is also available to help with the visualization part. We will start in Sarajevo.

5. **LH:** Backsets shouldn't be only taken care of by the SG/Treasurer. We are lagging behind on keeping track on the Finances. It's a domino effect. The issue is at the execution phase, the task division is problematic. The situation is dangerous so Bálint has to focus more on this (DV: If less to do in other fields, more time for finances). We need to fulfill our obligations. Next time she will be in Brussels is for the internal audit in September. Further, the **Alumni event has to be negotiated with ALDE to be taking place at the Congress in October. It's hard for LH to work on that since she isn't in Brussels. BG needs to be given mandate to make payments on Sum-up (Greece might be an issue).**

**DV:** Regarding the alumni network, we should have a **founding meeting** to start the process from the beginning and submit the paperwork again. It has to stay separated from LYMEC. Sissel should be the President and the Board members kept in the loop (EM, DV, Daniel Kaddik and Sissel Kvist).

**SH:** The ALDE Congress will be used to attract people. The Alumni network should be used as follow-up to the IMS (above 35 years) and a way to sponsor us. **An event should be set-up at the ALDE Congress.**

## • Discussion of future tasks and roles as preparations for August BM

### Issues of events cancelled:

- **EM:** Sometimes the events organized aren't shared in the MO's. Some actors act as gate-keepers. That prevents us from having wider outreach. With the help of Bálint, some **meetings should be set-up with certain MO's to talk about this.**
- **LH:** Regarding Gummersbach, it was mainly because of the season, everyone is going on vacations early July. Maybe we should think about something more fun? Camp approach?
- **DV:** We need to keep in mind the EC grant. We promised to do training and capacity-building on various topics.
- **SH:** The issue with Gummersbach was that it's not a fancy place, you had to travel and there was no-refund. In addition, the issue is linked to the distribution of information. We are late, we need Facebook events and go beyond IO's.

### Organization of events:

- **SH:** The next assistant should be involved mainly with the **logistics**. SG should focus more on financial issues and book-keeping/projects. The Bureau members should focus on content and take a leadership position for the seminar/Congress/events. The office should rather support the Bureau from now on with an overview of the timeline and the schedule of what has to be done (for example ELF guidelines). The overall approach should be: less events but higher quality.
- **EM:** In addition, the assistant should be also on **the content** side. They should do it together with the relevant Bureau member. .
- **LH:** Internal alarm system should be used on availabilities so that the office is not in a hurry and continuity is ensured. There is an individual responsibility on communicating.

### Communication:

- **DAS:** He will continue making the content but more planning on communication is needed. He will work on cooperating more with the others. He will be working on a concept, strategy and visual part for the **“Lymec video image”** project to be presented at the Spring Congress.
- **SH:** Good planning is needed with inputs from SH and AA from the EP. The video image should be explaining what LYMEC is about. What do we do, what we stand for, what are our objectives.

- **LH:** We should open to event marketing, **tag the organizations** to force them to share it amongst their members. We should check if they share.

***EM and DAS will look into how to brand next events on the communication side.***

- **LH:** There should be a specific date and moment when people could **catch-up with SH** on what's the situation.
- **SH:** It should be a **regular format:** SM format with possibility to join in. Podcast/video in English would be the best. To be defined after Svenja has her communication strategy as MEP.

## **ELF proposal (BG, DV, SH, EM)**

**DV:**

- 1 project is divided in several smaller projects this time (5 drafts that were submitted in jetform system).
- Every project needs its own document to be completed and submitted.
- **Deadline is in two weeks (21st of July).**
- Decision amongst the Board members on who takes ownership of the projects. 5 different leads are needed.
- When one event, it means one budget. When several items are involved in the project, all need to have a budget. Important to base the budget on real costs, make the research of prices.
- More or less 10 000 euros per project can be foreseen.
- **BG to meet Anastasiia from ELF next week to align with new rules.**

**The 5 proposals for 2020 ELF projects:**

1. Book seminar on values first:
  - Seminar in Luxembourg in February
  - Publication in April/May (End of May latest edition)
  - Book launch in June at the ALDE Summer Academy
  - **EM responsible and AA to help out.**
2. Capacity-building on cybersecurity:
  - IMS event in Berlin in May
  - **Steering Committee responsible (EM, Marina, Benjamin).**
3. Climate change and future, boosting energy solutions for EU:
  - Event in Copenhagen in June
  - **DAS responsible and LH supporting**

4. YLM (Young Leaders Meeting):

- Event in Riga in September
- Leadership training/ Tactics and Capacity-Building/ Presidency roundtable (Survey was launched to define content - deadline 15 July)
- **AA responsible**

5. YCA (Young Changemakers Academy):

- Event 1 in Den Hagen in August
- Event 2 in Dublin in October
- Event 3 in Brussels in November
- **PC responsible**

Follow-up:

- BG will come up with a table with the projects and their respective responsables.
- All leaders have to upload their documents on the drive in the relevant folder (see email and additional documents).
- **The Congress will be early April in 2020. SH will discuss it with Macedonian organizer MO.**

## Upcoming events

- **Book event Sarajevo (AA)**

- Logistically, we need to book the restaurants. Flight tickets are booked.
- **AA** is meeting the person from EPSC Commission to brief him and plan together his intervention on the 5 scenarios.
- Ilhan has confirmed and he is coming. He intervenes after the EPSC on the Europe we need.
- Daniel cancelled but Lauren or Jeroen will come. Edgaras will also help with this. Idea is to make the book better.

- **YLM (LH, DAS)**

- **LH** collected material to be used code of conduct (diversity plan) wise.
- Programme is needed so that people start to register.
- Should be recommended to fly to Vienna and then take the train.
- **AA** arrives on Friday 13th with the team (everyone will be there). She will be there at the opening and evening but leaving on Saturday morning. **SH** arrives late on Saturday from meeting in Bournemouth.
- Bureau meeting takes place on Sunday (AA to connect by Skype)

## Autumn Congress (BG, LH)

### • Logistics (BG, LH)

- **LH:** Naomi is the contact point, she is the secretary of the Young Libdems. Deposit is due to be paid, they were asked to split the invoice. We don't pay yet because we can't recover VAT from the Group grant if we pay instead of them.
- The venue was booked for Sunday as well, LH asked to change that. A reminder will be sent to get an update on the situation.
- They didn't consider the ELF book launch because they made evening programmes.
- The deposit for the hotel was paid already.
- The contact person from FNF, partnering for the book launch is Sebastian Vagt. **BG will get in touch with him to check if and how we will cooperate on this event for the book launch.**

### • Deadlines (BG, DV)

- To be checked between DV and BG. DV has to handover the relevant documents to BG.

### • Chair (SH)

- **SH:** We propose Sissel Kvist (she accepted), someone local from the Liberal Youth and Alliance Youth (Steering). Someone from the Liberal Youth should also help as minute taker. **BG to get in touch with the locals to define both chairs and minute taker.**

### • Book launch (BG, AA, DR)

- **BG** is going to get in touch with Sebastian Vagt from FNF.
- **DR** is in charge of this part of the Congress, she will work on the programme and contact speakers.



- **Congress seminar (BG, DAS, PCC)**
  - Topics: we are all European!, Brexit and implications, how to influence parties, post-Brexit liberal priorities, EU residence rights in UK.
  - LibDem MEPs will be asked to join.
  - Final version of the planned programme is available on Basecamp.
  - PCC is in charge of this event.
  
- **Contact FNF, potential cooperation (BG)**
  - BG will email Sebastian with AA in copy to check the status of the cooperation.
  
- **Membership applications (all)**
  - Junge Green liberals Switzerland is invited to join probably as observers so far.
  - Young USR is invited too (DAS is in contact). They were at the Moldova event. It depends on TLDE being inside LYMEC also.

**PC** is monitoring two small organizations: The Valencian regionalist organization and the Balear island organization with some counselors. In Portugal, we need to support people on the ground (event in Lisbon for that reason). We also cooperate with Movement Liberal Social of Portugal.

**AA** is taking care of Serbia. The new organization “Novi tre ciput” from Serbia was recommended to us. They should contact us if they are interested. MLADI from Serbia has a pay plan but it was not followed.

**LH will send the list of MO that didn't pay to the Bureau members.**

## **ALDE Congress (AA) 24-26 October**

- **Logistics (BG)**
  - **BG will look into the options for hostel or airbnb close to the venue.** The Congress venue will be in Athens at the Hilton.
  - **SH attendance will be paid by ALDE. The whole Board is going (maybe national delegations paying for some - to be double-checked).** We make 15 people booking in general (including the delegation).

- **LH** will be able to tell us if there is a refund possibility for the delegates after liaising with ALDE.
- We will be booking for the Board and take also the staff flights (BG to give the route to LH). The costs should be as low as possible.
- **Delegation planning (AA)**
- **AA to propose the delegation to submit the resolution on climate change.**
- The meetings will take place early September for the delegation to be ready by October.
- If we have another good second resolution, we might go for it (SH/DV: we should put forward a smart and serious proposal on Spitzenkandidaten and transnational list). SH and AA to write the Spitzenkandidaten resolution.
- We need to check what ALDE has in their policy proposals so that there is no contradiction (delegates to look that up).
- Meeting 3 weeks before the Congress to talk about the submitted resolutions and discuss red lines/agreement/disagreement.
- **Book launch with FNF as fringe (BG, AA, DR)**
- **BG** to check with FNF. DR is responsible for content.
- Publication 300-400 EUR (with EPSC if good speaker)

## Finances (LH)

- **LH:** No real idea on where we are standing. All fees for the Congress were paid (only sick person from last Congress not- we won't request it).
- 13 unpaid membership fees remain so far from the MO's. They have to pay their fees so that they can ask on time for reducing for 2020.
- 10 000 EUR from YFJ and 32 000 EUR from ALDE Party are in. ELF budget was under used for ELF projects for the moment. We should be close to what was budgeted. We always go below for publication launch in general.  
**DV:** We should envisaged more travel refund for Sarajevo.
- Keskusta paid MO fee twice. SH suggests to reimburse them.

### **LH:** Decision needed also on:

Catalan participant bought the ticket before the event without our confirmation. The event then got cancelled. **DV:** Reminds that every event we ever launch on the website beside GDPR, 18 years ... should also notify people not to pay any flights/travels before they get a written confirmation by the organizers. LYMEC is not liable for these issues. We don't reimburse him.

## Call for assistant (BG, DV)

The call will be launched on Tuesday. EM and BG to discuss the timeline for interviews. Draft was adapted by BG and will be published on the website.

## News from IMS (EM/PCC)

**EM:** we are redefining the new IMS pack and we adopt a new format for hangout. Social Media promotion will be used to avoid stagnation. PC to send proposal to SC on how to improve the situation.

**IMS by-elections:** The call was shared on Social Media and by email. No candidates applied yet.

## News from MOs (all)

- **MO database to be double-checked by Board to be sure we have the good data.** Bureau members to check the Facebook group for its organization if any update to be imported.
- CUF and FEL changed leadership. JMR will change leadership soon.
- Question from Iceland on twinning (**no direct twinning money unfortunately**)
- Gibraltar is back and applied to CoR event. Tony Puig is the new President in Andorra.

We could also apply for Political Project from ALDE Party. We are looking into potential future support for regional cooperation. LH in charge of looking into that.

## Committee of Discipline and Arbitrage (SH)

- Appointment of a substitute member autumn 2019/ autumn 2020 is needed after Bálint resigned for his new functions.
- Congress has to approve the candidate proposed by the Board at the autumn Congress.
- John de Coster was proposed,

### Status of open case

- **SH** will get in touch with the Committee to set a deadline for final report: **end of August**. The final report should contain measurements for both sides.
- **LH:** The Committee hasn't considered that we can't build on this. It can become a legal case if we want someone to be guilty for harassment. The bureau will have a final say. It's a consultative report. Difficult to take the decision unless there is a court case.
- **BG:** The Code of Conduct adopted at last Congress includes already some of the requests of the Committee report.

- **LH:** Civic Forum has reduced membership fee several times already. Associate membership would be difficult to monitor their fee so might not be the best solution. They didn't participate in LYMEC events for a long time. What happens if both are at the same event?

***The Committee has to come up with a final report taking into account the Code of conduct.***

## **Invitations (all)**

- CUF invitation - we don't go a second time.
- ELF Invitation to TLab to be shared in the newsletter.

## **Strategic Bureau meeting (August) (SH, EM)**

- Serbia, Belgrade
  - New organization there and visit the old one.
  - It has been a while without going there so it's a good initiative.
  - 22 till 25 of August with 23 morning meeting local MO's (AA responsible - LDP and Nova stranca) - 2 hours meeting followed by lunch and BM.
  - Accommodation to be checked by EM and budget by LH. Board members to check for flights with BG
  - Early proposal for content by SH for the last part of the mandate and agenda,

## **Any other business**

- IO information document (welcome one pager for IO's) - information newsletter - website - login access to be created by PC.

## **Holidays:**

- LH: Out week 30th and first week of August - work trip 6 to 8 th of August
- DAS: No real holidays
- PC: End of July and beginning of August
- AA: 9th of August till 22nd
- BG: 19-22 August
- DR: August
- EM: Beginning of August (2 to 9)
- SH: No time holidays (1 to 12 August) in the US - leadership conference