

MINUTES

Bureau meeting

22 September 2024

Ljubljana, Slovenia

The meeting starts at 8:30 am CEST and lasts until 10:30 am CEST at M Hotel breakfast room.

Present: Ines Holzegger (IH), Alexandre Servais (AS), Marten Porte (MP), Willemijn Krans (WK), Sorchia Ni Chonghaile (SNC), Sean Bennett (SB), Dimitra Papadopoulou (DP) and Balint Gyévai (BG).

Also invited: Chiara Liguori (CL) and Ioana Abaseaca, IFLRY representative (IA).

Meeting starts at 9:00 am CEST.

1) Autumn Congress latest developments (20 minutes)

- Update on dinners and evening programmes

The Friday dinner is booked at the hotel where we have the accommodation, Mercure hotel. It will be paid by local fundraising from Nowoczesna Youth and the Economic Freedom Foundation. The Saturday plan is still uncertain. We are checking options and based on our final financial capacities we can decide what to pick. This should get clarified in the next 2 weeks. We have two main options on the table now, one expensive, the other one affordable but not ideal at all.

- Update on fringe events

- Economic Foundation fringe: we are on track, it will be more a speech on economic transformation than a panel discussion.
- FNF fringe event on security and enlargement: WK to start the preparations next week, we will invite 3 speakers from our participants from relevant countries and with backgrounds that fit the topic.
- Microsoft sponsored dinner event: It's a bit stuck for Saturday evening. MP had a speaker and concept ready, but we aren't sure about this cooperation for compliance reasons on their side. That will be replaced by the Renew Europe event probably when we know more about that support.

- Overview on participation

We adopted a proportional approach on extra seats allocation to the size of members. The next in line are the 5th delegates for our biggest members in case extra spots become available.

- Guests invitation

All invitations were sent out, not everyone gets a speech. BG explains the specificities of this Congress and the willingness to have less speeches to enable more policy discussions.

- 8 weeks deadline outcomes

BG presents the outcomes of the 8 weeks deadline with no MO applications submitted this time. He further reminds about the 4 weeks deadline coming up with all the reports that have to be submitted.

2) Budget approval 2025 (15 minutes)

- MP explains the main lines of the budget. New Secretary General starts at a lower salary of course. There is also only one ALDE Congress planned this time in 2025.



- 13 000 EUR profit is what is foreseen.
- WK asks about the membership fee reductions. MP explains we have had less requests lately.
- WK asks about the name of the expense account for the EC grant. She also asks if the IFLRY related budget line is enough.
- DP is asking about the 'ALDE Group' account to clarify that it is about the ALDE Congresses and not linked to the Renew Europe group.
- MP also explains that we aren't using enough of the accounts linked to representation and visit to MOs. IH hopes we can accept more invitations in the near future.

3) Finances 2025 (10 minutes)

- ELF 2025 project budgets and proposals final approval

The drafts have been made, it's ready on the drive. We will do a written approval in the middle of next week. The office will also have a look at this. The ELF amount for the year stays the same - 75 k.

- FNF cooperation proposal for 2025

The Bureau discusses the options - date, location and topics. It will be submitted and discussed with FNF in the coming days.

- Renew Europe 2025 budget discussion updates

Updates to the Bureau on the situation, timeline and projections. We should get clarity in the coming weeks for this Autumn and also for next year.

- Suggestion on checking for more EC grant options comes up from WK. SB volunteers in reshuffling competences accordingly if need be. First step, get the money for 2025 from the EC. Then, we can check for more funding opportunities.

4) Selection Secretary General candidate (5 minutes)

After an open call and a very thorough process, the Bureau has selected Even Diot to become interim Secretary General and to be proposed at the next Congress in Warsaw for the Secretary General position of the organisation. Details will be settled in the coming weeks.

5) IFLRY updates (5 minutes)

Ioana Abaseaca (IA) is reporting to the Bureau about her work. She is in regular contact with the whole Bureau. She participated in all the meetings except one. It's a monthly online meeting format. The past weeks were focusing on the GA in Tallinn in November. It is 100% financed by FNF. She refers to some difficulties from the Abidjan GA from earlier this year. The organisation is working differently, it's harder to plan ahead and market them to so many organisations from all over the world. She raises challenges linked to her position as an institution. Dates will be sent to IFLRY about our Spring Congress - 4 to 6 April 2024. It is sent well in advance, so they won't put their GA too close to ours.

Question from AS on the choice of Tallinn and how informed IA was. The choice was determined basically because of FNF preferences so for financial reasons. Importance of the region in the fight against Russia is also an element.

6) YFJ Comem in Ghent November 2024 (5 minutes)

- 2 spots are available this time

WK and SNC will go together. It's between 22-24 November 2024.



-The Advisory Council will be renewed

We would nominate Maurizio Cuttin for the next term. WK will be in touch with him to check his interest in this endeavour.

7) News from MOs and IMS (5 minutes)

- JD is going to elect their IO, it's a new process in place.
- Libdems in the UK will have significantly more budget in the coming years due to recent electoral gains.
- Ciudadanos has financial issues as we already knew.
- We have a LYMEC IMS attending UN Youth events, she is a delegate, good to use this as an opportunity.
- Discussion on LAU's disaffiliation at this upcoming Congress has taken place.

8) Invitations (5 minutes)

- In November, there will be a Congress by ERPY in Tallinn, we will get an invite and maybe also from LLJ in Vilnius for January.
- Danish organisation Moderatern will join as an observer in Warsaw, no application yet. SB will sit down and discuss next steps with them.

9) AOB (10 minutes)

- Questions to Renew for Commissioners hearings:

WK has worked on it and will send it in the coming days to the Bureau.

- Latest updates on the website migration:

CL explains that it is a complicated process with ODOO. We are in touch now with the ODOO consultant to get support on the points where we are blocked. We could invest some money in this in case we are very stuck, MP clarifies. ALDE has a limited amount of hours in the contract that makes it difficult for us to receive support from Odoo through demonstrations or video calls, however we can reach out to the Odoo consultant via email for smaller technical issues and documentation. We have made good progress on our tasks internally and therefore are on time. There is a clear timeline on the next steps. Launch is planned on 15 November and the newsletter dissemination will be starting mid-October. It will be advertised for 2 months while we migrate the website.

- Truck loading ALDE Congress + ALDE Bureau elections updates:

We will find someone to step in and load the truck in Brussels. The Secretariat will prepare everything during the week (bags, banners etc.). No additional material coming from DP for that.

No Bureau meeting is planned in Estoril at the ALDE Party Congress because of the tight schedule, and it would be very close to this meeting. We will do written approvals where needed in the meantime.

Meeting ends at 10:30 am CEST.

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