

MINUTES

Bureau Meeting

10 November 2024

Warsaw, Poland

The meeting started at 10h CET and ended at 12h10 CET at Hotel Mercure Grand, Warsaw.

Present: Ines Holzegger (IH), Alexandre Servais (AS), Marten Porte (MP), Willemijn Krans (WK), Sean Bennett (SB), Dimitra Papadopoulou (DP) and Even Diot (ED)

Invited: Chiara Liguori (CL)

Excused: Sorcha Ni Chonghaile (SNC)

1) Congress Updates (15 min)

- Warsaw Congress: Implementation of decisions taken

The president thanked the Bureau Members and the Secretariat for the overall success of the 2024 Congress in Warsaw and asked to do a round and gather feedback.

Fringe: Despite an improvement in the attendance of the fringe events that we propose ahead of Congress it remains insufficient. We need to ensure proper attendance from the fringe especially as some are sponsored by partners and thus do not give a good image.

Decision: Only 1 fringe ahead of Congress with the possibility to invite a speaker to deliver a keynote during the dinner on Day 1.

Approval of the Secretary-General: Following the approval of the Congress of the Secretary-General, the administrative process will start to register him in the Moniteur Belge and with the bank, his new work contract will also be drafted.

Organisational aspect: A general meeting between Bureau members and the Secretariat should be organised in the week ahead of Congress in addition to the Internal Briefing email to ensure an efficient division of tasks and responsibilities.

Disaffiliation: Following the disaffiliation of Joves Liberals (Andorra) and the Youth Forum of AKR (Kosovo) their debts will be erased.

- Updates Spring Congress

ED gives an update on the state of play of the LYMEC Spring Congress 2025 to be held in Zagreb, Croatia. The venue, the catering and a third of the accommodation are already booked. The Secretariat is coordinating with the partners to find a suitable place for the reception and additional accommodation.

Due to the collapse of the German Government and its repercussions on the potential support from our partners in funding this Congress, the Treasurer and the Secretariat will monitor the situation to ensure sufficient funding is located from alternative partners.

- Steps to take for Spring Congress

Only 1 fringe will be organised as decided above with the possibility of a keynote in the evening.

2) Upcoming Calls and Communications (15 min)

The following calls were presented by the President and submitted for approval to the Bureau Members. The calls will be launched the week following the congress to ensure sufficient dissemination.

- Approval call for 2025 Autumn Congress

- Approval call for communication Assistant

- Approval call for IMS elections 2025

To ensure more attendance the debates will take place ahead of the holiday season.

- Approval Membership Survey 2025

It is stressed that the Membership Survey is mandatory for all member organisations and its completion will be monitored by bureau members. The GDPR disclaimer will be updated as well following the launch of the new website.

3) Updates from Bureau Members (30 min)

- Updates on the Revamp of the Statutes and internal document – MP

- Meetings were organised to go through all the documents, policies and procedures that need to be rewritten. Inputs were gathered from the Auditors and the Committee of Discipline and Arbitrage.
- IH Stressed that we need concrete proposals by the Digital Assembly to allow members to discuss ahead and then to be approved swiftly by the congress

Decision: The following plan was decided:

Recommendations from the working group will be sent to the MOs before the Digital Assembly of January 2025. They will be discussed during the Digital Assembly and then submissions of the Revamp of the Statutes and Internal Document by the 8-week deadline ahead of Congress.

- IH outlines the will for the document to replace different policies, including the Congress rules.

- Plans on revamping the induction of new IOs in LYMEC – SB

- All the information is available but spread across the website. Proposal to draw up a single short, and visually appealing document, grouping information. For the IO to introduce them to LYMEC, what the organisation is expecting from them, and what they can expect from it.
- SB also proposed that a similar guide could be made available for delegates during the Congress.
- IH reminds the Bureau about the Practical guide which already exists and the risk of duplication.
- CL highlight the fact that we have regular meetings with Chairs ahead of Congress.

Decision: SB will be in charge of drafting the guide to IO with the support of DP for the design.

- Sharing of contact details of IOs – SB

- With the idea of easing communication between LYMEC Members Organisations, facilitate cooperation and collaboration on projects, events and activities. LYMEC will put in place a document allowing each MO to contact each other through their email address.
- Every MO will be asked to give explicit consent to share those data in the Membership Survey 2024 and the Secretariat will put in place measures to ensure that data are protected under the GDPR. Only the contacts of international officers will be made available, preferably their official member's email address.
- We will need to ensure that dissemination is done securely through a protected document.
- AS: is there a possibility to use the new functionality of the LYMEC website?
- IH: SB/AS/MP coordinate and propose a solution by the next Bureau Meeting in December.
- There is also a need to remind that Members are required to inform the organisation if they are changing IOs and/or President via sending an email to office@lymec.eu

- Digital Assembly 2025 updates - SC

- IH The Digital Assembly was originally planned in Germany. However, due to the upcoming snap election, it is no longer possible due to funding restrictions.

Decision to switch between Germany and Belfast for the January/February Digital Assembly 2025

- DP briefed the Bureau about the possible timeline for funding from FNF but stressed the uncertainty of the situation due to the upcoming elections.
- Different partners were mentioned with the possibility to request funding from ELF, to hold a Political project with ALDE or the Westminster Foundation for Democracy.
- SB MP and ED will coordinate the financial aspect, SNC is in charge of DA as a whole

4) Finances (10 min)

- Updates on EC Grants

ED briefed the Bureau about the ongoing application process of the Erasmus + grant for 2025. CL outlined the simplified process compared to 2024. The deadline to apply is the end of the month the first draft needs to be delivered in the coming weeks with an accrued need to fact-check each other's inputs and track changes on this crucial document as this funding is vital for the functioning of the organisation and time-sensitive.

5) News from MOs and IMS (5 min)

- Update IFLRY representative

- An update from the IFLRY representative was given during the Congress, with the General Assembly of the organisation happening next week.
- IH briefed the Bureau about a call she had with the Estonian Centre Youth about the possible way forward (Return towards LYMEC values and no longer attending ECR and ECR youth events, Resignation, automatic disaffiliation or disaffiliation via Congress) The Bureau should keep monitoring the situation and organise a second meeting if necessary.
- WK Updated the bureau about the situation in Belarus.
- SB: Gibraltar Liberal Youth has vanished, therefore so has the prospect of their membership.
- SB Youth wing of the Jersey Island will be contacted. They are not and will not be a member of the UK.
- DP updated the Bureau about the situation in Greece.
- One guest from Iniciativa Liberal (Portugal) was present at the Congress. SNC and IH are in contact with them about the process of joining LYMEC.

6) Invitations (5 min)

- Political Tech Summit

This will be shared with the network via newsletter.

6) AOBs

- MP Following the disaffiliation of Joves Liberals (Andorra) and Youth Forum of AKR (Kosovo) their debts will be erased.
- MP spoke about the financial cost of the Previous Secretary General leaving the organisation which was more costly than anticipated. We will ask the social secretariat for a yearly update on projected end-of-contract costs and will discuss with the external auditors whether we can create a reserve for that purpose.
- The price for the services with the Auditors did not increase since we started working with them which meant they were working at a loss. Therefore the Auditors increased

their price. And because of the positive cooperation, we will proceed with them for 2025.

- WK expresses the will to have a better overview of the next Bureau Meetings.
- SB updated the Bureau on the work of Libertas.

Decision: SB will draft guidelines for authors in coordination with the co-editors.

Decision: The Call to renew the Editorial team which was planned in early 2025 will be advanced to match the other calls mentioned in Point 2.

End of Bureau Meeting.