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Bureau Meeting 18-20 May, Brussels

Present: Svenja Hahn, President (SH), Edgaras Mascinskas, Vice President (EM), Lena Höglund, Treasurer (LH), Antoaneta Asenova, Bureau Member (AA), Deimante Rimkute, Bureau Member (DR), Pau Castellvì Canet, Bureau Member (PCC) (had to leave early so absent Sunday morning), Dan-Aria Sucuri, Bureau Member (DAS)

Also present: Danica Vihinen, Secretary General (DV)

Minutes

1) Opening and welcome

SH Thanked all for being here, and expressed that she hopes everyone had a safe flight and a nice day in Brussels. She furthermore pointed out that we have a tight agenda and ran through the agenda and timeline of the meeting days. We will start with a teambuilding activity this evening to make us grow together as a team. The agenda was approved with the addition of financial updates for Sunday.

2) Introduction to LYMEC

How does the organization work, how does the funding work, partners and allies, General rules of collaboration in the Bureau. Reports, answering, assigning of tasks, Online Bureau meetings

DV gave an introduction to LYMEC: organisation, structure, funding, partners. SH gave guidelines for communication and collaboration in the Bureau, will create email communication guidelines and a form to fill in before each Bureau Meeting. Decision to have the online meetings the first Monday each month at 19:30.

3) Getting to know each other

Review of people's skills and strengths and figuring out what they would like to do and can contribute, assigning field of tasks, titles and regional responsibilities. The agenda point started with a presentation of the results of the Clifton 5 strengths survey and a discussion on what this means for their contribution to the team, followed by one minute pitches on what each Bureau Member wants to achieve in their mandate.

SH and EM presented their vision of tasks, to create task force teams as follows: - Communication; D-AS communication, DR campaigning, online comms, together with EM.

- Policy; AA as policy officer, LH fundraising, PCC outreach, policy book. Creating synergies and a structure to reach our goals.

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LH: Important that we are more focused as last mandate was more individuals doing their own projects rather than working together for our goals.

Task division:

PCC: Capacity and Coordination Officer

DR: Campaigns and Training Officer (Campaigns, Libertas editorial)

LH: Treasurer (alumni network, fundraising)

AA: Political Officer (Council delegate, ALDE congress delegation, ALDE Group relations)

D-AS: Communications Officer (strategic and implementation, supported by EM) EM: VP (everyday outreach, internal coordination)

SH: President (Long term overview, external outreach)

The task division was followed by a discussion on how to best support each team member.

SH: Traditionally the president doesn't have regional responsibilities, but suggestion to also free the treasurer from regional responsibilities as she has plenty of other added tasks.

General discussion on what languages each team member speaks and which countries and regions they know.

The regional responsibilities were divided as follows:

SH: Germany

EM: Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg, France, Spain / Catalonia

AA: Albania, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland, Turkey D-AS: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Denmark, Finland, Georgia, Iceland, Moldova, Norway, Romania, Russia, Sweden

DR: Belarus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Ukraine PCC: Andorra, Gibraltar, Ireland, Italy, Northern Ireland, Portugal, United Kingdom

4) Overview of the plans for the mandate

Discussion on the framework for the mandate as set by the ELF application and Erasmus+ application, exchange on how we can fill the ideas with life, fixing the dates for 2018, assigning people to events

DV ran through the plans for 2018 as set by the ELF and Erasmus+ applications, as well as the framework plan for 2018-20 as submitted with the Erasmus+ application.

List of events and responsible Bureau Member(s)

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27.6 Book Launch, Brussels – SH, EM, AA
27-29.6 ALDE Summer Academy, Brussels – SH, EM, AA + DR
13-15.7 IMS seminar, Milan – PCC
15.7 BM, Milan – all
2.9 Internal Audit, Brussels (dates tbc) – LH
7-9.9 YLM, Budapest – DR, AA
9.9 BM, Budapest – all (D-AS on Skype due to Swedish elections)
16-17.9 Young Elected Politicians event with ALDE CoR, Brussels – EM, DV
12-13.10 Campaigning on Social Media ELF seminar, Vilnius – D-AS, DR
13-15.10 Autumn Congress, Vilnius – all
15.10 BM, Vilnius – all
8-10.11 ALDE Party Congress, Madrid – AA, alumni event: LH
11.11 BM, Madrid – all
23-25.11 Young Potential Candidates training, Brussels – DR

5) Brainstorming on ideas for ELF application 2019

DV explained the framework and process, that the deadline for concept notes is June 22 and the selected concept notes should be turned into proper project proposals by July 22.

SH Explained which events we would like to do during 2019 in the framework of the ELF project, as follows:

<u>Spring Congress and seminar</u>: the three Belgian Member Organisations have applied to host the spring congress 2019, and the ELF seminar that precedes it, in Brussels in April. Decision to accept, as it fits very well with the upcoming European Parliament elections to do it in Brussels. Discussion on the timing given there are many holidays in April next year and YFJ COMEM will be in mid-April. DV will check the exact timing with the MOs and also what the Belgian electoral law says regarding political events before elections as there will also be regional and federal elections at the same time with the EP elections.

<u>Autumn congress and seminar</u>: Young Liberals UK have applied to host it. SH explained that there has been a discussion to do it together with FNF (possibly UK-EU relations, can fit a lot in there). Decision to accept the application by YL and to continue talks with FNF.

<u>Young Leaders' Meeting:</u> Sergiu Boghean (IFLRY representative) has expressed a wish for it to be in Moldova, but could be Moldova a bit complicated with Erasmus+ eligibility. Decision to contact FNF regional office and try to do a joint event on Eastern Partnership or Neighbourhood Policy.

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<u>Book event</u>: The theme should be Future of Europe, where do we want the union to go. Idea to do the seminar in June/July, after the EP elections. FNF wants to partner up on this, possibly two launches, one in Brussels and one in connection to the ALDE party congress.

<u>ELSN event</u>: Suggested topic is digitisation of education and labour market, need to come up with a suggestion where to do it (not in Estonia as we were there recently). <u>IMS event</u>: Discussion about organising the IMS event in the Balkans.

<u>Minority rights and Turkey:</u> SH explained that there was a request from ELF to partner up on an event on this theme, it could be an evening event in Brussels, reaching out to a broader audience than just LYMEC members.

6) Setting KPIs for our goals 2018 and 2019

EM: We need to set objectives and goals in order to make LYMEC more impactful and results driven. Did some research, circulated a memo. Three pillars of success: Results-driven, policy-oriented and agenda setting.

Results driven: each decision, meeting, event etc. should be aimed with a specific result that can be measured.

Discussion on what the main policy areas should be. Agreement on:

- Democracy and structural reform (institutional reform, EMU)
- Defence and cyber security
- Digital market & trade
- Education and labour market reform
- Environment, climate change and energy
- Migration
 + Decision to feed digitisation into everything

Decision that EM will make concept notes on each of these topics, checking what we could do, and if we have enough policy on it.

SH: What are the main things we want to be for our members?

PCC: Policy and think tank. AA: Networking and training. EM: Leadership skills. PCC: Need to also appeal to the broad masses of members of our MOs.

DV: We should make sure we target our events at multipliers! SH: We need to work in close cooperation with our MOs to secure that. EM: We are a service provider for our members, but we really need to help them on the selection of participants to events to ensure these can bring the knowledge home and share it.

Agreement that we are first and foremost a network, and a trainings and capacity building provider for our members.

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Discussion about whether to create a pool of trainers and what the added value would be. Conclusion that we do not at the present have the needed resources (money or HR wise). We should look into having a LYMEC person on the YFJ PoT.

It was further decided that the Bureau will focus on visiting the weaker MOs to help them build capacity. Additional needs might be able to be funded by new sources of funding. Toolkit will also be updated especially with e-learning material and video recordings from events done with ELF.

Expanding membership: associate to full, new to associate, new IMS.

Exchange of best practices should be in everything we do, and we should encourage twinnings (especially between stronger and newer MOs)

Externally: We should focus on our political impact, especially towards and within ALDE Group (annual staff meeting, annual group leadership meeting, policy work). We need to enhance our communication towards liberal forces in the EU. Need to create a communication strategy (internal and external). DAS was given the task to come up with a communication strategy.

Organisational goals: Professionalise the structure, digitisation of organisational procedures. PCC will look into organisational obstacles and what we can do to improve. LH: We must increase our HR, at least one more employee during this mandate. Diversified funding is also a goal.

EM will prepare a working document on the KPIs including goals, which will also work as a base for the Plan of Action

PCC will prepare a more comprehensive proposal document on Policy Groups for our next physical bureau meeting, linking it to our agreed goals and EM's work on KPIs

7) LYMEC Manifesto Process

AA presented her vision for the process:

1. Email, containing a call for a consultative vote on topics and simultaneously call for identifying a manifesto responsible officer at each MO - 15.05.2018

1.1. Vote on topics - Eurovision approach - we could do an online poll on the LYMEC FB page, and an email procedure for the MOs to identify up to 5/6 topics. The result of the online poll (open to all) + the MOs answers should give us the manifesto topics. Possible deadline for the poll + emails - 02.07.2018

1.2. For each of the manifesto topics a WG should be created. Each MO should identify one of its members to serve as a Manifesto contact person, informing his/her organization on the progress so far and taking part in the discussions and drafting process.

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02.07.2018 - 06.07.2018 - identifying the 5/6 topics, and respectively WG on each, announcing the groups to MOs; Each manifesto contact person will have time to respond in the discussions of which WG they would like to take part, informing us about their preference by ordering the WG in their preference from 1-5/6. People should be allocated on a first come first serve basis. Deadline for this choice - 07.07.15.07.2018

15.07.2018 - 30.07.2018 - primary work on the manifesto texts. Task allocations 16-18.07., Skype meetings with Manifesto contact persons every 3 days - gathering their ideas, input etc.

End of August - summing up the work on the manifesto, working on a first draft to be presented in Budapest 07-09.09

Discussion on possibly altering the timeline a bit as the manifesto needs to be sent to the MOs in mid-September to meet the statutory deadline.

8) EU elections first agenda setting

Discussion on people's capacities ahead of the elections as some will or might be running and many are crucial in the national campaigns.

EM: Asked DR to write a concept note for an online campaign, looking into taking advantage of the many languages spoken in the Bureau. DL July Bureau Meeting.

9) Young Candidates Academy

SH gave an overview of the plan and which events are already foreseen (the Brand Yourself, Present Yourself event in Brussels in November would be part of the academy, as well as online trainings and meetings) and the discussions with ELF and FNF the past days to do two events in early 2019 as part of the academy: one capacity building training in Gummersbach, one on shadowing an MEP for one day in Brussels.

10) IMS reform

SH gave an update from the meeting between SH, DV, Benjamin Fievet and Marina Sedlo (IMS delegates), and explained that there is now a common view on how to move forward with the anticipated reform.

SH initiated discussion about the IMS social media. а EM and PCC will work together with the IMS delegates to launch the reform process, first step is to set up a core working group of a few people with insights and background knowledge to steer the process. Discussion on names that could be proposed for the group.

11) Data

GDPR protection and DV gave an introduction to what GDPR is and how it applies to LYMEC, will send more

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material by email. Overview of where we are in the implementation, this will be main focus upcoming week in order to be compliant by May 25.

12) LYMEC

Working

Groups

Decision to have the following order of things: We will first set the KPIs and then let it trickle down to what we need to have WGs on. Suggestions:

Writer's network for Libertas, DR will take lead, coordinate with AA and PCC. Possibly have a WG for looking over the policy book, but only after the elections. Minority WG, discussion on topic they should look into. AA: suggests looking into electoral laws restricting the use of minority languages in a number of EU countries. Possibly also use the WG in preparing the Turkish minority event next year. Diversity: DV explained that diversity (or the lack there of) is something we have mentioned we will work on in the 3-year plan for Erasmus+. PCC could look into this. DV: Knows a person working on this in Youth for Exchange and Understanding, could ask him to come and give a training. SH: YLM 2019 could be on diversity! LH: Has just finished work on equality plan for work, could propose one for autumn congress 2019.

13) Invitations to events

- EYU congress 25-26.5, Kyiv. Discussion on the importance of going, but after looking over prices for travels it was decided that it is too expensive to send anyone on such short notice. DV will inform EYU, and also let them know we would happily send a trainer for an event of theirs as they are one of the MOs who might need capacity building in line with the newly set priorities.
- NUV summer camp 16-21 July. Decision not to send anyone as it is not in line with the priorities.
- JNC Summer Camp 27-29 July. Decision not to send anyone as it is not in line with the priorities.
- YFJ Academy 27-28 June. DV explained what it is about, decision that DR will apply as communications officer.
- Jubel Festival (proposal for cooperation). AA presented the proposal for cooperation from Bàlint Gyévai. Decision that DV will ask for more detailed information.
- Momentum president in Brussels 24 May, balloon event. DV will distribute information to LYMEC people in Brussels
- YL Greece Summer School 8-11 July, Crete. SH explained that the invitation was sent in early April, and as they needed a name quickly and the Bureau responsibilities were

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not distributed it was already decided that DV will represent LYMEC as a speaker / trainer.

14) Logo and visual identity, process and launch

SH and EM presented the process and the alternatives for a new logo. Bureau decision on which logo to choose. EM will be in contact with the designing company to let them know and to set up the next milestones. Decision to launch the new identity at the Autumn Congress. Need to reshuffle the budget to make sure we can print new material, should also order promotional material for IMS, such as a banner and flyers.

15) Alumni network, ideas for events and fundraising SH explained where we are with the Alumni network, and that the ordinary GA to choose a board should be held before the end of June. Discussion on people to ask for the board. Decision to ask ALDE Party about the possibility to organize fundraising drinks at the fringes of ALDE Congress in Madrid. DV will ask Emily Death. Other ideas for fundraising where discussed. LH will look into cooperation with companies. The idea of creating merchandising to sell and create a small financial benefit for LYMEC

16) Finances

LH will look over the budget taking into account the decisions made during this meeting and try to adapt it accordingly. Discussion on the inflexibility of the current financial protocol and the need to revise it as it simply ties the hand of everyone (office, Bureau, Treasurer) too much. LH and DV will look into what works and what doesn't and present suggestions for updates.

17) AOB

DV reminded about sending her tickets and boarding cards.

18) Closing

SH closed the meeting at 11:50, Sunday 20.5

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