

MINUTES
Bureau Meeting
Budapest, Hungary
27-29 August 2021

Saturday 28 August 2021

09 h 30 – 13 h 00

Participants: Antoaneta Asenova (AA), Dan-Aria Sucuri (DAS), Marten Porte (MP), Marina Sedlo (MS), Ida-Maria Skytte (IS), Ines Holzegger (IH), Laia Comerma (LC) and Bálint Gyévai (BG).

Starts at 10 h 00

1) Congress - MP/AA/BG – 1.5 hour

- Update on the general COVID situation

- Unfortunately, red zones are an overall trend in Europe. In France, the 'pass sanitaire' is compulsory but enables people to lift restrictions when gathering if fulfilled. We have to foresee PCR testing (72 hours) or rapid tests (48 hours). We need to make sure that people know about the rules - if not vaccinated then tests will be needed in the context of the 'pass sanitaire' as well.
- We will get updates from the hotel regarding guidelines closer to the event in place.
- The Bureau will re-evaluate **the situation at the YLM on 19 September 2021**

The Bureau will decide that if you can't afford the testing, delegates can make a request to the Freedom Fund to get reimbursed for the cost of the test after the event.

- Registrations - for decision

- Communication to delegates: first delegates registered can go ahead and book travel tickets. The Bureau will re-evaluate on 19 September for the second delegates according to the amount of people allowed and rules in place.
- The 2 observer organisations will be attending in-person. Regarding the presence of guests - we will evaluate later.
- Participation of some of the former Bureau members will be arranged (as chairs or other).
- 67 people confirmed in-person with 64 in need of accommodation.
- 6 people from the IMS are selected - sticking to the rules so the Bureau rejects two of them.

The Bureau decides to send 1 confirmation with in-person attendance for delegate 1 and hold for delegate 2 until the YLM and the rest will attend the Congress online 3-4-5.

- Logistics and bookings (Friday night walking dinner)

- Hotel booking is all fine with the accommodation, food including lunch and dinner on Saturday will be provided at the venue.

- We need catering at the JR HQ for Friday evening. There is a proposal of 9 pieces/person for 10 EUR/person. 80 people sitting down and 100 standing is possible at the HQ. We need to buy the drinks on the side.

The Bureau decides that we will go for 9 pieces/10 EUR/person. Salty only and we ask JR to support us in buying the drinks and the glasses.

- We are also looking into boat options to be rented for a Saturday night activity. We asked JR a few options based on an estimated price range we have.
- A call has to be scheduled with the technical team of the hotel soon to make necessary updates.

- Guests and observers – for decision

- 2 observers will attend in-person (Slovenia and Italy).
- Guests are online for the moment and we reassess on 19 September (IFLRY, YFJ, YDE, ELF, ALDE, Renew and JAM).

- Timeline and programme

- It can be found on Openslides as discussed at the last meeting.
- BG runs the Bureau through the timeline and discusses the side event taking place before the Congress. It could maybe be connected with a Renew event in Strasbourg with youth delegates participating. The side event could be on CoFoE: presentation of our two proposal papers, timeline conference, importance and what they can do with an MEP available from Renew and a speaker from Mouvement Radical - Dominique Riquet.

- Chair selection - for decision

The Bureau discussed potential options and will check availability for the proposed candidates.

- MO applications received

Only the application from USR Tineret for full membership was received.

- OpenSlides training for Bureau members + presentation of the tutorials/guides

- MS and IH will have higher access and the rest of the Bureau will not get involved too much.
- LC or Edgaras (EM) will be trained in case to be the back-up.
- 4 videos were recorded by IH and BG as tutorials and an updated guide is already available for the hybrid Congress.
- Bureau members to at least watch the videos by the Congress.

- Bureau resolution on Afghanistan based on the European impact of the situation in the country

- DAS and MS to work on it.
- It will focus on the European perspective and the asylum policy of the EU.
- Call for freezing assets of the Taliban's but also to deal with the involvement of Pakistan.
- Lack of coordination in the evacuation at the European level and allies - we need to highlight and condemn that. We should have our own capabilities and not fail being divided.
- It could also be our resolution for the next ALDE Party Congress.

- Working Groups and policy

- It will be happening on the Saturday before the Congress weekend.
- Same working method will be used as last time with voting on OpenSlides.

- Election of the LYMEC delegation to ALDE Party Congress

- We are electing 9 people
- *Draft timeline:*
 1. *Call for applications: around mid-September till 1st October*
 2. *Candidates website + Debates: two weeks before the Congress*
 3. *Elections at the Congress: 23 October 2021*

-Freedom Fund and reduced participation

1. Andorra 100 EUR/ 80 EUR - **approved**

Freedom Fund open for PCR tests - communicate to the concerned people.

2. Reduced fees (65 EUR instead of 125 EUR):
 - Nova Stranka Youth - **approved**
 - Momentum TizenX - **approved**
 - LHG - **approved**
 - Nowoczesna Youth - **approved**
 - Joves Liberals Andorra - **approved**
 - Nasa Stranka Youth - **approved**
 - Vesna YDM - **approved**

We have to invoice the participation fees - next Friday when MP is in Brussels.

Mladi LDP suspension:

- We would lift it if they pay the part following the agreement before the Congress and apply for reduced fee 4 weeks before Congress.

2) Finances - MP - 30 minutes

- Update budget 2021

- End the year will take place with quite a big surplus because the website was cheaper than expected. No ALDE Congress this year so less money spent also on that side.
- Surplus between 10 000 and 15 000 EUR at the end of the year - we will wait for ALDE to decide on their Congress to shift the amounts. We will also boost the budget for the cooperation project for next year.

- Discussion and approval 2022 Budget

- Next year two Congresses and not only one from the Renew budget so we need to put money aside.
- The 2022 Budget will be approved at the YLM Bureau Meeting and not at this meeting.
- More travels will take place and we should have a buffer for that.
- We should invest in activities instead of material and equipment in general.

- Internal Audit preparations

- BG will prepare the books beforehand with all the documentation.
- Meeting with the auditors (Jeffrey and Tuuli) will take place at the beginning of the day in the office in Brussels. This happens next Saturday.

- Additional funding discussions

- BG and MP had some discussions about funding opportunities for us in Belgium from the French community. The best would be to reach out to ministers to work on common projects - smaller amounts. Structural grants will not work because we have a European focus.
- Council of Europe is not really happening as a structural grant but only separate projects with study sessions. We shouldn't overestimate the relevance of this cooperation financially.

- MO fees 2021 update on situation

The Bureau discusses the last outstanding payments and actions to take.

- Alumni Network updates

- Around 30 people registered so far.
- Most of the members of the leadership will not continue so we need to select new candidates to lead the association.
- Potential candidates who could step in were discussed.
- Get together should be organised as an evening in-person even in Brussels in September/October.
- Working lunch should also happen to discuss expansion of the network and organisation of the assembly.

The Bureau proposes to wait for the fringes of an ALDE Congress at the venue of the event for the assembly launching the network properly and selecting a new leadership.

3) Staff - BG - 20 minutes

- New Policy intern

- Around 150 applicants
- BG analysed around 50
- There is a shortlist of 11
- Interviews are planned with 3 of them with additional 3 back-ups based on the tasks we received

- Extension Assistant Sara - for decision

The Bureau has 3 options:

1) no extension

2) until the end of October fully in Brussels

3) until the end of November with hybrid work during the last month from Helsinki.

The Bureau picks option 3 with a proposed end of contract on Friday 3 December 2021.

14 h 00 – 17 h 00

4) ELF - upcoming events - All - 1 hour

a. Skill Camp in Ljubljana

* COVID situation and measures

- Slovenia is in yellow/orange
- Guidelines from the hotel = EU digital pass requirements
- Form to complete upon arrival

* Logistics and travels

- B/B hotel is booked for the two nights with a conference room - the dinners will be out and are already booked.
- We will aim at making as many prepayments as possible

- 3 participants cancelled - we have 13 of them now

*Programme

- We have Sven Gerst on 'basics of liberalism' - he worked on the topic as a PhD. We also have Gosse Vuijk from D66/Stichting IDI on lobbying and putting ideas forward. MP will give a session on holding a speech. MS will be focusing on networking as a skill - the participants should act as multipliers after the event. SvB has a session on how to debate.
- Programme was reshuffled to fit the flight options available and a meeting was organised between all the speakers/trainers to ensure the consistency of the programme.

*Online e-learning

My Academy course on Liberalism was open to the participants for 3 weeks before the event so we bring them up to speed and ensure equal knowledge between them.

*Additional

Regarding Social Media - it would be interesting to do a live on instagram at the beginning of the event with organisers and trainers.

b. YLM in Bucharest

* COVID situation and measures

- Romania is green still
- Digital pass needs to be used
- Participants will be 19 - we had two cancellations - everyone will have own room

* Logistics and travels

- Hotel is booked in the Ibis Styles City centre with a conference room for Saturday.
- We will be on Friday in the Parliament and that's free of charge - we will meet the local politicians.
- The dinners will be out on both days - we need to make those bookings still. The first dinner is a bit far on Friday so we might need busses - we are checking that option.
- Travels are all booked.

* Programme

- All speakers aren't confirmed yet but we are working on having MEPs and one expert for the session on networking. We will try Abir from Renew for the event - no reply yet on her side.
- Bureau members are set to prepare their respective sessions.
- MS will be moderating the session creating a 'call for action' from the President's exchanges.

* Outcomes, video and CoFoE

- We plan to have a video about the Presidents explaining our proposals recorded by a proper team with separate shots for SM and also a complete video at the end.
- The call for action should be shared on our platforms and endorsed by the Presidents together with the clips.

c. ELF Human rights project with NOVUM

1) Podcast participants and topic:

We need to check what the topic could be - IH would do this.

2) WG on civil and minority rights: article + roundtable discussion - dates and concept

- WG wants to do this on **LGBT rights** somewhere in October in a completely online format. 400 EUR is available for moderation, we will ask the working group who would be eager.

- Article would be on **youth rights** with LYMEC's policies showcased - LC will write.

d. YCA

* 1 September event

- Evening on zoom between the Changemakers
- Groups were already made for the breakout room and the link was sent out to connect

* Online e-learning

This is on-going and should be completed by the event on 1st September, the majority of the participants didn't deliver yet.

* YCA II - Andorra

We will reach out to the locals soon to check logistics and start working on the programme.

5) Council of Europe Study session - 15 minutes

* Preparatory meeting - logistics and financial considerations

- Dates are confirmed for 24-26 September in Strasbourg.
- We can book the flights now + local transport. The rest is covered by the youth centre.
- We lost one of the members of the team, we need to find a new team member. We opened it to ACP- YPN but no response yet. MP would cover in case there is no one else. Other option: **Katharina Schreiner** from the German liberals.

* Opening of the call for participants

- Open on 3 September
- Visual, call and form were prepared already and discussed

6) Conference on the Future of Europe - 30 minutes

- Online regional events

- First of them is going to happen next week on **2 September** with the Nordic region. Almost all organisations will be joining this call. Some countries won't be able to make it because the IOs are not available.
- MP explains that the Benelux + France should be available on **Thursday 14 October** at 20 h CEST. This still has to be confirmed.

- Endorsements on the digital platform

- End of the platform before the end of the year probably. We need to know when it closes so AA will ask at the Conference Secretariat.
- We are ranging between 40 and 48 endorsements for most of our proposals but a few hundred followers. We are wondering if people didn't mix endorsement and follow actions, we need our proposals to be endorsed more. We will bring this up at the regional talks again and ask them to endorse.

- Further actions

- Use reddit to share further the proposals from the platform
- LC proposes to push more the MOs to organise events and join our events
- IS reminds to push our MOs to endorse our proposals

7) Invitations and requests - 30 minutes

*ELF Liberal Awards Ceremony nominations:

- Emma Wiesner (Climate issues) - Best speech (IS)
- Ria Schröder (MS) / Miklos Hajnal (BG)/ Christoph Wiederkehr (IH) - Rising star
- Alena Trauschel (MS)/ Judith Toronjo Nofuentes (LC) (youngest politicians elected) - Rising star
- Romina Pourmokhtari (DAS) (LUF) - Values champion
- Sofia Surma (IH) (Viva la vulva) - Outstanding changemaker
- Anna Donàth (BG) - Political disruptor

*ELF GA in Brussels (AA + BG + LC)

LC to attend the Working Groups and AA will be our official representative in-person. BG will follow hybrid online mostly.

*ELF fit for 55 + future of mobility actions - speaker suggestions

- Pascal Buehrig for the fit for 55
- Jong Democraten on mobility actions on the future of railway

*UPI Congress in Slovenia

IH will attend the fully online Congress on 4 September at 11 h.

*YFJ - Policy Programme and upcoming COMEM

- Comem taking place mid-November in Jodoigne, Belgium. IH is registered, its hybrid
- IH explains that the policy programme is the manifesto for the YFJ. IH asks if there is any input, then Bureau members should reach out to her. These are the broad lines for the organisation. IH warns that we might not manage to get a lot included. AA suggests that we could put some content in the process on climate from our resolution.

*EYE application through an MEP

AA reminds that this is a theoretical opportunity because MEPs already have slots taken by previous groups. The Bureau won't go ahead with this and we will consider it for next year. We will share it with the IOs group and ask them to try to contact MEPs for their member organisations.

*Working Group on China debate for ELF

LC will participate on 30 September online.

8) MO and IMS updates - 15 minutes

- Team future from Italy will be applying for membership in Spring, LC had a call with them.
- Updates on relations with IFLRY.

9) AOB - 15 minutes

-Update on the websites

- Old website will be taken off in the coming hours
- Our former links will be redirecting to the new website
- Produweb will keep our domains

Meeting ends at 18 h 30