european liberal youth

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Bureau Meeting Podgorica 10 September 2017

Present: Sissel Kvist, President (SK); Svenja Hahn, Vice President (SH); Marijn de Pagter, Treasurer (MdP) (had to leave for the airport at 10:30); Lena Höglund, Political Officer (LH); Edgaras Mascinskas, Campaign and Communications Officer (EM); Kevin Tammearu, Digital Officer (KT); Sergiu Boghean, Trainings Officer (SB).

Also present: Danica Vihinen, Secretary General (DV)

1. Opening (SK)

SK opened the meeting at 9:15

- 2. Updated financial protocol (MdP)
- MdP gave a short overview of the proposed changes

- Discussion regarding different ways of reimbursing Bureau members' phone bills – decision to keep current system but with clarifications.

3. Alumni Network (SH and MP)

- The alumni network shall be legally founded before the autumn congress. It shall be secured that a LYMEC bureau person is always represented, preferably the treasurer.

4. Financial issues

- Tallinn congress gala dinner restaurant reimbursement. Decision to send recommended letter to the restaurant, if needed check with ERPY if they have a lawyer in the membership

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- Sweden congress hotel bills were wrong, MdP explained that we will try once more to get the hotel to issue new bills to our partners (ALDE Party, ALDE Group, ELF)

5. Debrief YLM (All)

SK: issues with two no-shows, respective bureau members will contact youth forum of AKR and EYU. Also many late cancellations, will from now on always have disclaimer in the event description. Discussion on how to improve the registration process.

SK: Local organizers have been very good, big thanks to Ammar and Nikola.

Speakers were good but in future we need to point out that they're talking to YOUTH leaders

LH: Flexibility needed for signing up as it is a special event

SB: do we have a system for checking about changes in MOs, so that we are sure the information is sent to the right people? DV: They can update themselves.

SK: ELF reports (long and short), SB responsible

6. Congress

• General update from Office on state of the event (DV) DV gave update on preparations, Hans van Baalen will participate SK asked all to remind MOs about the application deadline, also about Freedom Fund

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SH: will be in the panel at the FNF event parallel to our seminar

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- SK: Chairs: Vedrana Gujic, Igor Caldeira, Suleyman Suleyman
 - SH: Resolutions tool opens Monday, will send in IO group

SK: Check who will be minute takers, need to have a good command of English

Applications to become associated and full members (KT)

KT: the organization from Ukraine (LDLU) applying for associated membership seems good, had a chat with them and they have a good sense of what they're doing, funding seems clean. Members of IFLRY

SK: checked the organisation with Daniel George (IFLRY Belarus and Ukraine programme officer), who knows them well and gave a positive recommendation.

KT: Already registered for congress

DV: Liberal Youth Montenegro and TLDE (Romania) are interested in applying for full membership but the deadline has already passed so they will have to wait until the spring congress. Both will fulfill the criteria after they get a visitor from LYMEC to their statutory events in September.

• Status of Seminar (DV)

DV: working with Ilhan's office and FNF to get speakers;

SK: Akilah Ensley (YDA) will attend as speaker

SB: The speakers we are planning on contacting include the former Bulgarian ambassador to the USA, someone from the US embassy, AmCham, former Bulgarian foreign minister, a representative from Strategicon (Romanian think tank). DV will draft letter to send to potential speakers

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• Deleting old resolutions (LH)

- LH gave an overview on what's possible to change, has mainly focused on chapter 9 (foreign policy). For example we currently have 6 resolutions on Kosovo, quite a few on Cuba, etc. In some cases it would be possible to update: suggestion to turn 24 into 9. Starting with Turkey resolution as the policy should be updated, also want to clean up the policy book ahead of EP elections.

- SH: Should have an encyclopedia of our policy

- LH: How should we go about the cleaning up? WG or herself or just deleting overlapping resolutions? DV: need to have someone in bureau check all resolutions that are submitted for every congress to amend with "strikes down resolution(s) x". LH: We also need to do some political steering as there are some areas completely missing. EM: the way the resolutions are written now is hard to lobby them. SK believes a working group is not the right format to deal with this, so either go for deletion, or then start process of cleaning up starting with Turkey. Decision to do the latter.

7. New Visual Identity (SH and EM)

SH: had a session with EM on how to update the visual identity

EM: got three propositions, but none nice, will try himself and send propositions upcoming week

SK: If we don't have a logo in time to order lanyards we can just have pins with nametags instead of lanyard nametags

SH: let's just launch at congress and do promotional stuff later

DV: so all material for congress will be with current logo? Confirmed

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Discussion on when to reveal it, decision to do during closing at congress

8. Book Launch (DV)

DV: need to launch New Europeans, green light from ELF to do it in October. Decision to do it on Oct 18.

9. Mentorship Seminar (LH)

LH: Opening up for applications this week, have 12 mentors now (preliminary planned to have 8), will communicate somehow flexible to the mentors that we have to see the mentees to pair them up.

LH explained the setup, launch event will be in Open VLD office but having trouble reaching Jong VLD for the practicalities. Should make it possible for mentors to join congress in Berlin or showcase it somehow. DL 1.10 to apply. Letter of motivation + political CV to apply. LH and EM will work on a fb campaign to promote it. One person per MO (IO will sign them up), IMS sign up themselves. LH will send the draft call.

10. IMS Seminar (DV and EM)

SH: 8-10 December, in Brussels. Capacity building, Fb poll on exactly what skills they'd want training on, or google form.

11. Debrief Young Elected Leaders (EM)

EM: Process was not so smooth, if we want to continue this we have to be properly involved in the planning. Have to have a clear added value for LYMEC.

12. Tour the Balkan (SB)

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SB: Sent report by mail. All leadership is new and need support (capacity building, elections etc), all strongly want to (re)engage with LYMEC. Youth Forum of Nasa Stranka asked for support in door to door campaigning etc, elections at the end of the year.

DV and SH: good opportunity to launch the twinnings or at least pilot it. SB: what they really need is peer support, help put them in contact with the MOs that have the right skills. Would be good to establish a pool of trainers or at least a list of experts. Discussion on how to do it in practice. SB will write a proposal. Very useful to meet in person with the MOs. Should do this more with new organisations. SB will write a report/article for the website.

13. Youth Guarantee (LH)

LH attended YFJ Task Force meeting 2-3 September. Need to have a stance on this, as we've mostly been critical up until now. YFJ will ask for formal input on a text to lobby MEPs as this will be discussed in the EP mid-October. LH has sent the Bureau a draft letter to send to ALDE MEPs, needs comments by Wednesday, mainly proposing not more money but better control of the spending. The discussion in the YFJ Task Force is not in line with what we stand for, need to talk about employers. LH will send the details on which MEPs are in the right committee to the office, and the draft YFJ letter to the whole bureau. SK: thanking LH for taking initiative on this. LH: critical of the composition of the TF. SK: Should send a letter about the invited experts to YFJ as it was very skewed (ECA, Commission but former YFJ employee and assistant to S&D MEP).

14. MO Elections visits (LH)

LH: As many MOs are visiting each other's campaigns, should we ask for blog posts? SH: Better to ask someone from the MO that had elections to write about elections?

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- 15. Future visits and events (all)
- 17.9 Kevin will go to Athens for FNF/ELF
- 17.9 Internal Audit in Brussels (DV, MdP, internal auditors)
- 22.9 ELF GA: EM, DV, Rick (EM voting, also proxy vote from MLS)
- 27.9 PPYO Debate organized by JEF in the EP, SK will check availability
- 23.9 TLDE Summer Academy (statutory event), SB
- 30.9 DV to LY Montenegro congress, also give trainings
- 30.9 SK will attend a roundtable on EU-Africa relations at JOVD Congress
- 6-8.10 SH JuLis Congress
- 12-15.10 LYMEC Seminar+congress
- 18.10 Book Launch
- 10-11.11 Mentorship event Brussels (LH, SK)
- 10-12.11 JEF GA (SH if affordable)
- 17-19.11 LHG International Academy SH
- 23-26.11 YFJ COMEM KT or SB
- 1-3.12 ALDE Party Congress (all)
- 8-10.12 IMS event

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16. Political Blogs (KT)

KT: Curate blog posts on topics like how to be successful at LYMEC congress, how to do a delegation meeting etc. mainly by bureau members, first post by Sissel on the politics of openness reflecting on the presidents' roundtable at YLM. Thoughts on ideas for topics can be sent to Kevin. Will be part of Libertas on website.

17. AOB

SH: gave update on IMS reform, will be a motion to congress

SB: Toolkit needs to be put on the website. EM will take care of it.

SK vacation 11.9-26.9

SH vacation 29.9-12.10

- SH: Hotel for Berlin is booked, can have cultural evening.
- 18. Closing

SK closed the meeting at 12:53

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