

MINUTES Bureau Meeting 07 January 2026

The meeting started at 18h30 CET 07/01/2026 and ended at 20h00 CET 07/01/2026. It was held online on Zoom.

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

Excused: Sorcha Ni Chonghaile (SNC)

IH opens the Bureau meeting and introduces the first agenda point.

1. General Updates

LYMEC Turns 50

AS reminds the Bureau Members of the status of the Publication, *LYMEC turns 50*, which is now in its writing phase. The Deadline for contributions from the Bureau is mid-January. It will be followed by the editing and the designing phase before the printing in March. The publication will be presented at the LYMEC Congress in Vienna in April 2026.

MP asks if there is a dedicated space for quotes from Bureau Members, Alumni, etc.

AS Yes, there is a space for the Bureau to write their inputs on what LYMEC represents, their work, what the organisation stands for, etc.

SB Libertas has been included in the Publication. As the Editorial team is in a transition period, the inputs will be done by the Bureau Member responsible for it (i.e **SB**)

DP has a meeting with Keskustanuoret (Finland) to discuss the archives they possess.

DP is waiting on the archives from FNF in Gummersbach to set a date and visit the archive. She will follow up with the Bureau to discuss what type of documents we would like to consult.

WK asks about the testimonials, who from the alumni, former Board members and participants are to be contacted.

AS will send the list of potential individuals whom we would like to include in the publication for outreach.

Spring Congress

ED Reminds the Bureau that the deadline for candidates of the new Bureau, to be published on the Website, is the 4-week deadline.

The Secretariat started contacting venues and hotels for the Congress in Vienna and is coordinating with JUNOS on the matter.

ED will send a reminder to the network to apply to host the LYMEC 2026 Autumn Congress. The deadline is January 29.

Digital Assembly 2026 -I

ED updates the Secretariat on the Programme of the event. The deadline for registration is January 30th.

Women @ LYMEC

IH introduces a new initiative to address the lack of Women's representation and participation in our events and Congresses. Based on the gender watch initiatives of YFJ **IH**, **DP** and **WK** discussed the way forward during a meeting in December.

WK worked on a Gender report based on the Registration data of our Congress, as well as the Minutes, to collect data on who took the floor.

ED will update the registration forms for the upcoming Congresses to ease the process of collecting data in the future for Delegates 4/5/6.

DP will present the numbers at the Digital Assembly 2026 in Istanbul, as well as the proposed way forward. This might include a fringe session at our Congress and a best-practice consultation with member organisations to ensure more meaningful participation in our activities.

2. ELF Projects

February: Meeting with ELF for each project

ED reminds the Bureau members of the upcoming Project Initiation Calls for the ELF Projects 2026. The first one will be for Young Changemakers Academy 2026, as the first event is in March, the selection process will be in early February.

LCN 2026 Updates

The LCN Training 2026 will now be supported and organised with FNF Europe instead of ELF. The tentative dates 15-17 May are not expected to change.

New ELF Project

As one training from ELF was transferred to FNF, one additional training will be organised with ELF to maintain the number of components we are delivering with this partner.

IH proposes a training on Women's empowerment.

ED the date of the training will be coordinated with ELF in May or July. A bureau member must be appointed to take the lead and support the Secretariat.

DP agrees to take responsibility for this project. She will coordinate with the project Officer and ELF for the next step. The project will be presented at the Digital Assembly in Istanbul.

3. Updates from the Secretariat:

IFLRY Updates

ED has a Call with IFLRY to discuss potential partnerships for Project Grants under Erasmus+ 2026.

IH As the secretariat is already at working capacity with the current trainings, events and the additional component of the Libertas Bootcamp 2026 of the EYF and the new Women's Empowerment Training of ELF, no additional resources can be allocated to potential Project Grants under Erasmus+ 2026.

New Dates for Taiwan GA.

IFLRY is discussing changing the dates of their GA in Taiwan. If the new dates are too close to our Congress, and for cost efficiency, a decision needs to be made on who will be travelling to Taiwan on behalf of LYMEC.

Decision: **MBS**, if willing, will be travelling to Taiwan if the dates of the IFLRY GA remain the same, as the nomination period for the upcoming bureau will be too tight to appoint a new IFLRY Representative and ensure cost-efficient travel arrangements.

The Secretariat will coordinate with **MBS** for the Travel details.

ALDE Congress 2026

The registration is open for the ALDE Congress 2026 in Vienna. The delegations and Secretariat will register accordingly, and the new Bureau of LYMEC will register upon their elections in April 2026

IMS: Debate (08/01) / Elections (12-16/01)

The IMS debate takes place on January 8, with the elections running from January 12 to 16. 3 delegates will be elected.

EYF Updates

ED Following the approval of the Libertas Bootcamp 2026 by the European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe, a new training will be organised by LYMEC and requires a Bureau Member responsible for it.

SB, as Bureau Member responsible for LIBERTAS, will be in charge of it. The event is scheduled for June 2026.

YFJ Updates

YFJ invited LYMEC to a consultation within the CULT Committee of the European Parliament on Erasmus + on January 13th.

ED will be joining on behalf of LYMEC.

YFJ also contacted **WK** to present LYMEC's inputs on the European Circular Economy Act. **WK** will meet with them on January 13th.

4. Tour de Table:

Updates YFJ GA/COMEM

WK will shortly send the report from the YFJ GA and draft the complaint to the Board for Bureau approval. The yearly membership survey of YFJ will also be an opportunity to address this issue.

Code of Conduct and Guide to IO

SB is updating the Code of Conduct and the Onboarding Guide for IOs to stress the importance of attending the Congress Working Group. The new document will be presented at the Spring Congress 2026.

5. AOB

MP asks about the status of the Membership survey 2026.

ED informs the Bureau that the Member Organisations have until January 20th to fill out the Membership Survey.

SB presents the draft call for the Libertas team of 2026. The structure will change slightly with an Editor in Chief, Managing Editors and Editors. The call will be open next week after discussions with the current Editor in Chief.

MP adds that it is expected of the Editors applying to join as well the Libertas Bootcamp training in June 2026. This will be mentioned in the call for Editors.

DP will attend the LHG Congress on January 9-11 in Germany.

WK will attend the LLY Congress on January 18 in Lithuania.

WK asks that the statement, similar to the one shared on Greenland, be shared in advance within the Bureau, and not only the Social Media discussions.

The Meeting ended at 20h00

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