



MINUTES

Bureau Meeting - Belfast

31 January - 01 February 2025

The meeting started at 14h GMT and was held in Belfast.

Present: Ines Holzegger (IH), Marten Porte (MP), Sean Bennett (SB), Willemijn Krans (WK), SORCHA NI CHONGHAILE (SNC) and Even Diot (ED)

Invited: Chiara Liguori (CL)

Excused: Alexandre Servais (AS), Dimitra Papadopoulou (DP)

IH opened the Bureau meeting and started with the first agenda point.

1) Updates from Bureau Members (120 minutes)

a) Revamp Document updates (MP)

MP Presented the document of the Rules of Procedures of the European Liberal Youth. This document aims to combine the Congress Rules, Financial Protocol, Code of Conduct, IMS Internal Rules, and Equality & Diversity Plans in one document. Also there is an amendment to the Statutes to enforce the new Rules of Procedure.

A special session will be organised on **February 19th** to discuss the text with the Member organisations.

Members can propose amendments to the text in coordination with the Bureau, but only at a single level, as the text constitutes an amendment as such. Therefore, the limit on amending amendments is upheld. The deadline for amending the Rules of Procedure is March 7th, four weeks before the Congress Deadline.

DP connected online

b) Guide to International Officers

SB presented the draft guide to International Officers. This document aims to coordinate the onboarding of new officers within the organisation. Bureau Members provided feedback and the report will be edited by DP.

It will be shared before the end of February, along with the GDPR Forms for IOs by the Secretariat.

c) Updates on Finances.



MP reported to the Board on the Internal Audit which took place in early January. The surplus calculated in 2024 did not materialise fully as the cost of the change in staff impacted the organisation, with the change of Secretary General.

The organisation will buy 2 new laptops to renew the equipment of the staff as the depreciation of the current IT equipment is compensated.

As a follow-up to the completion of the membership survey by the Member's organisations, the Membership fee was sent with the exception of 2 MOs.

AS Connected online.

On the organisation of the Digital Assembly in Belfast, no partners were found to support the event. Therefore the organisation of the second Digital Assembly will be dependent on LYMEC securing funding to be financially sound.

MP, a meeting will be set with ED regarding the potential support of our partner FNF on this matter.

IH, following the change of location of the first Digital Assembly to Belfast and the elections in Germany. The proposition to host the second meeting in Serbia is proposed. The European Liberal Youth has not been present with its activities in recent years. With the current situation in the country, it is politically important to show support and organise an event there with our member organisation on the ground. Funding will be looked at through our partners.

d) Social Media Guidelines and Strategy (DP)

i) X

DP, In the face of current developments on the platform, and our member's concerns a decision needs to be made on the presence of the European Liberal Youth on the platform X. We developed a significant number of followers over the years. However, the engagement rates are not satisfactory. The change of models in the leadership of the platform impacted our reach. Therefore we need to question our use of this media.

The Bureau discussed the benefits and impact of the organisation staying on X.

After deliberations and a vote, it was decided to leave X. Our account on X will not be deleted, however, we will not post on it anymore and will use it solely to advertise our new account on BlueSky. As a change in ownership of X is possible we might evaluate using this platform in the future.

ii.Steps regarding Tiktok

DP explained the ongoing work on LYMEC joining Tiktok. In March, specific meetings are planned with the Communications team on the strategy of TikTok. The new Communication Assistant will be joining them.

DP highlighted the need to show faces on TikTok videos, therefore having the President and Secretary General on the platform would be beneficial.



IH proposed a trial period with only the leadership of the organisation being used to advertise LYMEC and assess its impact at the end of the year.

DP left the meeting.

e) Report YFJ consultative meeting and PACE in Strasbourg (MP)

Last week MP and ED joined a Consultative meeting with the European Youth Forum in Strasbourg during the Parliamentary Week of the Council of Europe. Other Political Parties and Youth Organisations (PPYOs) were present.

ED will attend the European Youth Foundation Meeting in Brussels to seek Grant Opportunities.

Additional opportunities will arise within the framework of the Council of Europe. A report from the Sub-Committee on Youth and the Society of the Future will be drafted and published in October, at the European Youth Capital of 2025 in Lviv. Additionally, a Youth Ministerial Conference will be held in Malta on 8-9 October 2025. These are projects and events to which we are invited to contribute, and support from the YFJ, along with other PPYOs, can be sought.

f) Updates of the Standing Working Groups Revamp (SNC)

SNC expressed the need to restructure and dynamise the work of the standing Working Groups of the organisation.

A Registration Form will be shared with the members of LYMEC in February for them to express their will to join the different groups. The existing group will be shut down and new links will be sent to the new members in March.

SNC is the main coordinator of the working group and will ensure the first meeting to elect the Chairs of the Working Groups.

Joining the Working group will be done via a form shared in the newsletter rather than members emailing the chairs of the Working Group directly.

The new Working Group will be:

- Civil, Minority and Democratic rights
- Climate Action and Sustainability
- Education and ELSN
- Security and Cyber

WK would like a Working Group to focus on digitalisation, as a lot of policies in this area are upcoming and inputs from our members would be of added value.

SB asked about the role of Bureau members in each Working Group.



IH, each Working Group should be composed of a Chair, who is elected during the first meeting of the Working Group. The Bureau will facilitate the first Working Group meeting. Afterward, a Bureau member is expected to attend some of the subsequent meetings, offering guidance and support for the work carried out by the Working Groups.

g) EU advocacy planning (WK)

WK presented the EU advocacy Strategy of the European Liberal Youth. The first draft of the European Commission is expected to be published in February. It will be cross-checked with our Programme of Action 2024-2026.

Legislative proposals on Transport, Space, and Sustainability are already scheduled.

IH will support WK on the Space advocacy portfolio with the text being expected in the 3rd quarter of 2025.

WK the organisation needs to be proactive regarding the upcoming policy proposals, especially in the fields where we have resolutions. Sustainable transport, CAP, Skills and competencies (education and life learning).

On Artificial Intelligence, we do not have a policy. The European Commission and the European Parliament are working on it substantially. Therefore, LYMEC and its member organisations should work towards a resolution on the matter as we are having a policy blindspot on this matter.

IH highlighted the importance of presenting concrete steps for advocacy on the policy areas mentioned above. The upcoming event with young MEPs with ALDE in March is part of this advocacy plan and additional meetings online need to be scheduled.

h) ELF projects 2025

CL informed the Bureau of the status of the current ELF project cycle. The Initiation Calls for 2025 started.

As for every project in cooperation with the European Liberal Forum, we need to contact partner organisations with whom we could cooperate in advance of the initiation call. You can reach out to the Secretariat on this matter.

At the Young Leaders Meeting, we need to increase the visibility of this event and should include communications with 'traditional' media on the ground. This should be reflected on the strategy of the Social Media plans.

2) Updates from Secretariat

a) LYMEC Spring Congress 2025



ED provided updates on the organisation of the Congress in Zagreb, Croatia. This event will be supported by several partners including the RENEW Europe Group in the European Parliament and the European Liberal Forum.

The Bureau discussed the nomination of three individuals for the chairing panel of the Congress.

The Bureau discussed the guests and speakers for the Congress, allocating the opening speeches to the RENEW Europe Group, the ALDE Party, the European Liberal Forum, the Member Organisations hosting the Congress in Croatia, and additional partners, pending confirmation of their financial and/or organisational support.

b) Bureau division of tasks for the Congress

WK will support the Secretariat in organising the Fringe event on Friday, April 4th.

DP will take care of Social Media and Photos during the Event.

SB will support the Secretariat for the Technical and AV equipment.

IH and AS will liaise with the guest speakers and partners.

CL and the Communication Assistant will take care of the Minutes of the Congress.

ED will draft the Marching orders and supervise Openslides.

c) Congress Working Groups

One Bureau member and one Chair are needed per working group.

SNC and SB will be responsible for taking notes.

CL and the Communications Assistant will be responsible for OpenSlides.

IH and ED will organise a newbie session for OpenSlides on **March 4th**.

IH the List of Congress delegates will need to be approved by the end of next week. For additional Congress spots, the current system of allocation of additional spots based on the size of the MOs will be enforced. The number of delegates cannot be bigger than the number of votes.

d) Erasmus + updates (final reporting 2024)

The Final Report for 2024 is due by the end of February. CL will contact Bureau members for input.



e) New LYMEC Communication Assistant

The European Liberal Youth will welcome a new Communication Assistant from February 4, for a duration of 6 Months. The Communications Assistant will support the Secretariat and the Bureau in their daily work, especially in regard to communications matters. The Secretary-General is responsible for the attribution of tasks to the Assistant.

3) HR update LYMEC Secretariat

a) Discussion: Per Diems Policy

ED presented the policy of Per Diems to the Bureau.

Provided that the legal ground is approved by the Social Secretariat of the organisation. LYMEC shall no longer award a 13th month to its employees. The yearly cost of the introduction of a Per Diem Policy shall not be more expensive than the cost of the 13th month for the organisation if awarded.

This policy will be enforced in case there is no objection from the Secretariat.

The Bureau approves the Per Diems Policy upon completion of the requirements mentioned above. This Policy can be reviewed by the Bureau of the organisation and should be assessed every year.

4) Selection Autumn Congress 2025

ED: We have received two applications to host our Autumn Congress 2025, one from Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the other from Bratislava, Slovakia.

The Bureau selected the application put forward by Mladé PS.

AS We need to ensure partners in addition to the RENEW Europe Group can financially support the organisation of our Congress.

A meeting with FNF Europe about their potential support will be scheduled in February. As for the European Liberal Forum, who also have a member in Slovakia, LYMEC will reach out to set up a meeting.

The date chosen for the Congress is 14-16th November 2025

5) AOB

IH: Due to the selection of Bratislava for the Autumn Congress 2025 and to avoid having two LYMEC events in the same country. The location of the Young Leader Meeting 2025, originally scheduled in Bratislava, will take place in Luxembourg. This location will be confirmed during the Project Initiation Call with the European Liberal Forum.



IH, as discussed earlier, the Digital Assembly scheduled in August shall take place in Belgrade, Serbia. Financial support will be sought through local partners of FNF and ELF.

End of the Part I of the Bureau Meeting, 17h51 January 31st

Start of the Part II of the Bureau Meeting 15h15 GMT, February 01.

Present In Person: Ines Holzegger (IH), Marten Porte (MP), Sean Bennett (SB), Willemijn Krans (WK), Sorchá Ni Chonghaile (SNC) and Even Diot (ED)

Present Online: Dimitra Papadopoulou (DP)

Invited: Chiara Liguori (CL)

6) Invitations & upcoming events (15 minutes)

a) Students for Liberty: LibertyCon

IH: This year LibertyCon is taking place in Prague. As we do not have a member there it will be used as a scouting mission to meet with potential liberal organisations on the ground. LYMEC will have a panel; in which IH will be a speaker and a stand during the conference itself to promote its organisation, ED will be travelling to support the organisation.

MP: In 2024, the European Liberal Forum funded the participation of LYMEC in Georgia. This year, we are making an investment, and an assessment will be conducted afterward to inform decisions for next year.

b) Next YFJ General Assembly. WK

WK the next YFJ General Assembly will be in Brussels on May 9-10. SNC will be the main delegate representing the European Liberal Youth as WK as a prior engagement on Saturday.

c) European Commission Meeting in March.

ED: The European Liberal Youth has been selected to be part of the EU Youth Stakeholders Group of the European Commission. ED will attend the introductory meeting on March 27-28.

d) European Liberal Forum General Assembly

i) Spring General Assembly

The General Assembly will take place in Budapest, Hungary on April 14-15. MP will represent the organisation.

ii) Autumn General Assembly



The Autumn General Assembly will take place in Brussels, Belgium on September 24-25. The Bureau will decide during one of the next Bureau meetings who will be in attendance.

e) ALDE Young MEP Meeting

ED explained that the meeting is part of the deliverable grant from Erasmus +, and needs to happen in March 2025. ALDE will support LYMEC in the organisation of the event. The date will be set in the coming days with invitations following.

f) EFA General Assembly

SB received an invitation to speak at the European Federation of Allergy and Airways Diseases Patients' Associations Annual General Meeting in March. However, due to the costs and the relevance of the topic covered SB will decline the invitation.

g) Event *New Generation Uniting Nations*,

ED, the European Liberal Youth is a partner in this event, taking place May 14th to 16th.

WK will be in attendance for the Panel Youth in the Age of Authoritarianism, Populism, and Illiberalism.

h) ALDE Council event in Helsinki (Alumni / LYMEC turns 50)

IH, AS and ED will be part of the delegation. MP will be joining if the Financial Committee meets.

The European Liberal Youth will organise a side event during the Council in cooperation with the Alumni of LYMEC to prepare for the 50th Anniversary of the organisation. AS is in charge of this project.

i) Bureau members at Members Congresses

SNC will attend the Congress of Ógra Fianna Fáil

AS will attend the General Assembly of the Young Green Liberal Party of Switzerland on March 29th.

DP will attend the PSG Youth Spring statutory meeting on March 15th. Either physically or digitally depending on the support provided on the ground. MP will coordinate the financial aspect of this trip.

DP will attend the NEODEPA Congress from February 7th to 9th.

WK will attend the congress of JOVD from May 23rd to 25th.

MP will contact USR Tineret ahead of the presidential elections planned in Spring 2025 to seek opportunities to collaborate on the ground and show support.

7) News from MOs / IMS (10 minutes)



MP updated the Bureau about Jonge Democraten (JD) which has 2 new International officers.

DP updated the Bureau about the political development of Junge Liberale (JuLis).

IH updated the Bureau about the Situation of the Youth Movement for Rights and Freedoms (YMRF), as there is still a pending judiciary case regarding the situation of the youth organisation. IH will ask the co-president for clarification on the situation ahead of the LYMEC Spring Congress 2025.

8) Feedback & AOB

ED This agenda is here to assess the workload of the Bureau and the Secretariat. Following recommendations from the Internal Auditors, each Bureau Member is also expected to give concrete tasks they will perform until the next Bureau Meeting. This practice will help better monitor the workflow of the organisation.

SB will draft the Bureau Report ahead of the Spring Congress 2025. SB will deliver and share the International Officer Guidelines, and finalise the programme and organisation of the first Young Changemakers Academy Event in London. SB thanks the Secretariat and CL for their continuous support for this project.

DP will draft the Bureau Report ahead of the Spring Congress 2025. It will be shared ahead of the Congress to the delegates via OpenSlides. DP will plan the Spring Campaign and set up training for the new Communication Assistant.

DP left the Bureau Meeting

MP will share the Revamp of the Internal Rules with the Member Organisations. MP will prepare the Working Group on the Revamp document on February 19th. MP will prepare the Annual Financial Report, update the Budget for 2025 and follow-up with the Membership fees.

AS will draft the Bureau Report ahead of the Spring Congress 2025. AS will set up an HR meeting with the LYMEC Secretariat monthly. AS will set up a meeting with the new Communication Assistant. AS will support CL on the implementation of a LYMEC Hub on the website of the organisation.

SNC will draft the Bureau Report ahead of the Spring Congress 2025. SNC will draft the report of the Digital Assembly in Belfast, draft the programme for the policy debate planned on April 16th, and draft the overview of the Sunset clause ahead of the Spring Congress 2025.

WK will draft the Bureau Report ahead of the Spring Congress 2025. WK will have the project initiation call for the Liberal Hack project with the European Liberal Forum, contact local partners in Bosnia and Herzegovina and draft the programme. Due to a strong workload, WK will need support from other Bureau Members for the Policy Briefing and the Voices from Ukraine Webinar.



AS will take over the organisation of the Voices from Ukraine Webinar scheduled for February 25th.

SNC will take over the Policy briefing for January and February, however, this is not a task SNC will take on permanently. SB will be able to support SNC in drafting sections of the upcoming policy briefings.

We will assess the workflow at the upcoming Bureau Meeting. It will help the organisation keep track of the successes and misses.

IH reminded Bureau Members that the Secretary-General has an overview of the organisation's workflow and tasks, especially regarding the Communication Assistant. Therefore he must be aware of the distribution of tasks.

End of the meeting 16h42

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