

MINUTES
Bureau meeting
13 March 2023
ONLINE

Monday, 13 March from 18 h till 20 h pm CET.

Present: Dan-Aria Sucuri (DAS), Ines Holzegger (IH), Tuuli Helind (TH), Laia Comerma (LC), Tanzer Yuseinov (TY), Alexandre Servais (AS), Ellinor Juth (EJ), Bălint Gyévai (BG) and Chiara Liguori (CL).

The meeting starts at 18 h 05.

1) Spring Congress

***Latest updates on logistical aspects and bookings:**

- On the logistical side of things, the Youth Center is booked. Friday evening dinner is booked and prepaid by us as well. Saturday evening is still under discussion. We are trying to get a boat venue for the evening.
- Regarding the programme, BG presents some updates with two potential fringe sessions. One by TizenX and the other one by the Rainbow Platform. They will take place on Friday.

Comments from the Bureau:

DAS reminds that it is a great idea and also presents the Congress as more than just one statutory meeting and an actual conference, but the Bureau needs to show up and motivate delegates to do the same. There will be an issue to bring people and lunch will not be an option. TH adds that maybe we should merge the two events or make it really attractive.

The Bureau decides to manage properly the expectations of organisers of the fringes but to move forward with the idea. Forms to register will be shared in upcoming communications.

***8 weeks deadline inputs:**

- Suspensions/Disaffiliations were submitted by TH as discussed at the last Bureau meeting.
- Congress rules with amendments were submitted on Openslides (not possible for MOs to amend - deadline passed on Friday 10 March). The Bureau proposals can be amended and will be discussed during the Congress. Finally, a vote will be taken.

***Update on membership issues:**

- 5 associate membership applications: Liberal Alliances Ungdom, CUB Junior, Mladi Gibanje Svoboda, Democratic Youth of Kosovo and Project NEON.
- 2 full membership applications: ZeMolodizhka and Mladi Progressive Slovakia. Both organisations will send invitations to the Bureau for statutory meetings to attend.

**Invitations feedback:*

- Mr. Sejourne declined for Renew Europe - video will be sent or someone else will attend instead. ELF is still figuring it out. ALDE, local authorities and IFLRY are confirmed. YDE will send someone too but not confirmed yet.

The Bureau decides it will send an invitation to JAM as well but a greeting video in English is also an option for them if they can't attend in-person.

**Openslides updates:*

- All documents were uploaded and open to members.
- The training will take place on Monday 20 March together with the newbies session and delivered by IH and BG.

**New delegation system implementation:*

It is important to explain that we wouldn't be able to guarantee all the spots needed in the future as we are growing. We would need to get ahead and discuss the proposal before the Congress. Some organisations will send 2 instead of 3 in the future so we need to explain why we have to do this.

**Participation and membership fees updates:*

It was discussed with the Bureau in writing, a list was sent so Bureau members could follow up with the relevant MOs for the missing fees. They are slowly getting in. We will continue to monitor.

**Working Groups:*

- It was proposed to integrate the discussion on Congress rule updates in the working groups on resolutions and amendments. It has its pros and cons, WG opinion might not be taken into consideration that much. At the same time, it gives us one week to discuss the proposal further and feel the room on the topic ahead of the Congress.

The Bureau sees the merit in the proposal and suggests a discussion without a decision at the working groups on this matter.

- The chairs are available for this and WK as well. We will have them 3, CL and BG. From the Bureau side, LC and AS will step in.

** Waiting list for Congress:*

- JUNOS requested a delegate #3. It was asked for after the deadline and it would reflect negatively on not following the rules, so the Bureau rejects this request.
- YMRF delegate #4
- Julis delegate #4

2) External Audit and Finances

The External audit went really well. We had payments on the wrong accounting side that caused some troubles, but it's fixed now. We are moving more professionally, like the online approach we are taking, they liked that too. Auditors will deliver their report soon and then the Congress validates the account, and we are done. They will submit the whole thing to the authorities in June.

a) LYMEC merch for fundraising:

- TH explains that she looked into pricing. She identified that the printing is expensive and not necessarily the items we plan to get. For example, a tote bag made of organic cotton costs 1,8 EUR, but printing would be up to 8 EUR per bag. She will coordinate with TY to see whether printing in Bulgaria would be cheaper. Often adding the logo is what costs more.
- Currently we have planned the following items: tote bags, pens, reusable coffee cups, cloth used to clean glasses. All of these items would feature our logo and the tote bags phrases and/or puns. We can test out the popularity during our own Congress and the ALDE Congress to see which way we should go. If this is successful, we can also take a look at hoodies etc. We should generally aim at a profit margin of 20%, meaning if the product costs 4 EUR to produce, we ask for a donation of 5 EUR.

b) Fringe event at the ALDE Congress:

The room is booked for the event. Question is the format: can we do fundraising, i.e. can we get the merch. Proposed outline would have the same structure as last year, composed of old members sharing stories from their years at LYMEC.

c) Financial reports:

- Interim financial report will be done in early April so that it would cover Q1-2023.
- We have to submit a financial report for 2022 as well by the 4 weeks and TH made some new updates on the format. It is simple and she implemented a formula as well to make it better.

d) Erasmus+ grant:

The response is still unknown. Probably response in April, but possibly will get postponed.

e) Congress financing:

TH looked into it. The Bureau adds working hours of our staff in the participation fee cost as well for all the time they spent on it. This was highlighted when delegates registered for our next Congress.

3) Update ELF projects

*YCA 1 - end March - Barcelona:

AS explains that we had the onboarding meetings with all the participants. It was useful to see how they are progressing and what their objectives are. We had the support from Agora, the

Ciudadanos foundation. We have everything set and prepaid. Speakers are also all confirmed now.

*YCA 2 - mid April - The Hague:

AS explains that for this event we have issues with getting a venue for the Saturday. Both VVD and D66 dismissed us for that so far. We have Friday at the D66 office only. We also miss at least one speaker. Social Media Manager from ALDE will be asked for sessions. We have someone from D66 confirmed so far, maybe the person can do more sessions. On the YCA, CL adds that we had the commitment fee introduced and 9 out of 10 already paid it. Interviews with participants were concluded and it was a very nice process.

*Liberal Hack:

TY explains that we had our first meeting with our organisation from Cyprus. They proposed to have the event not in Nicosia but somewhere else on the island. The event will be closer to Larnaca. We have booked our flights and are looking for accommodation options. We are also consolidating the programme but have a good draft. The call is now open.

*LCN Youth Edition:

EJ explains that we had a call today with Milosz from our partner organisation on the ground in Poland. Everything has been drafted including the programme and possible accommodation options. The call will be open next week.

*European trainers Academy Youth Edition:

AS explains that we will have single rooms for this event. CL made a good work on the programme; it will focus on moderation/chairing with an entry/novice level training. We will have a total of 10 participants (5 from LYMEC) for an event in Split, it will be really interactive. It's a collaborative exercise with D66 International and the ELF Secretariat. AS will go on our behalf.

4) ALDE delegation

*Latest updates on the work of the delegation:

3 resolutions were prepared on climate change, digitalisation and minority rights. Tim Robinson will check the language. All the resolutions are now prepared. It follows the schedule established by Marina Sedlo from past experiences. The deadline for resolutions is at the beginning of April so there is more time still. Amendments will come after that. The overall work and commitment of the delegates was discussed.

5) ALDE Congress

- Travels: All travels were booked, one last flight for LC will have to be booked tomorrow.
- Accommodation: It was booked, and a deposit was paid for the two nights. Some of us will arrive on Thursday so the extra night was fixed as well (4 people).
- Registration fee: BG will bring it up with Sabine from ALDE and see if we can lift it for some of us. At this stage, 6 people would have to pay. It's a 75 EUR fee this year.

- *Fringe event with the Alumni Network:* TH will be responsible for this. The room is booked for Saturday at around lunch time. We have to get merchandising there to do the donations action. Former members sharing their stories is something that is an option this time as well. We should also probably have a guest speaker, drinks and food.

6) ELF special agreement 2024-2026

We have a good agreement at the moment, where we pay 20 000 EUR and we get for sure 67 000 EUR worth project money with an 11 000 EUR organiser fee for us. We are discussing this with ELF now and see what the best formula will be. We stress that we are in a specific status, we are the youth organisation of ELF and that is not unusual, so it needs to be treated accordingly as a special agreement.

7) Approval Financial protocol updated version

As discussed at the last Bureau meeting, we will proceed with an update on the fixed assets point. It will be submitted at the 4 weeks deadline by TH.

8) Approval Code of Conduct amendments

No comments from the Bureau at this meeting, it should be submitted with the amendments proposed by EJ, BG and the internal auditors at the 4 weeks deadline as a motion.

9) Approval Electoral manifesto points + updates on EU Elections 2024

LC will share it before the next Bureau meeting and the 4 weeks deadline. It is under construction.

10) Libertas updates

LC explains that we approved through email the new Editor-in-Chief, **Adam Volf** - one of our IMS. The new Editorial team was also selected, it includes 12 people. First meetings will take place soon, on Wednesday and the week after. All articles published after Wednesday will be from the new team.

11) Report to Bureau on latest missions

- DAS reports from the ALDE Bureau meeting: Discussion about Renew Europe and the cooperation ahead of the elections. Statutory changes will be proposed on several matters.
- IH reports from the ALDE IOs meeting: She adds a few points on the discussions that took place in Oslo. There is a big issue with non-EU members not being able to pay membership fees. EPP and PES don't have non-EU members, just affiliation. This is a big issue for our organisations from outside of the EU.
- DAS + BG report from the YDE Winter Academy they went to in Spain: Interesting discussions also on elections. Good links were created with an important partner and its members.

- LC reports from the ELF Liberalism workshop that took place in Greece. LC sent a comprehensive report on what was discussed at the event in Thessaloniki. There were former ministers of foreign affairs and diplomats, quite a high-level event. Any questions can be brought to her about this and we will incorporate a lot of points in our work.

12) Invitations

Freedom Games Lodz - Sept 2023:

BG and CL will have a call and come to the Bureau after with more information on what they want from us and what we could do together.

SU Congress Turku - May 2023:

Important anniversary event where LYMEC should be. We confirmed DAS for the moment.

FEYS 3.0 USR Tineret Iasi - May 2023

We might attend but we will wait a bit before deciding.

Organising Freedom Stockholm - April 2023

No availability at this stage from our team.

13) News from MOs and IMS

AS explains that there is a bit of loss of activity in the IMS and especially with the SC of the IMS.

14) AOB

- Digital projects platform: a meeting took place with IH, TY and AS to initiate the brainstorming and see the possibilities both in terms of content and structure.
- Renew4Youth manifesto: The amendments are to be submitted tomorrow by BG so it arrives before the meeting to Renew.
- Situation in Georgia: LYMEC reaction should be made. Europe should be clear and monitor the situation better. We will discuss it more in detail. It is important to emphasise that people went to the street to stand by the EU.
- Estonian elections: 3 reform youth representatives were elected in the Parliament so far. Probably 5 will be getting there at the end and we could give light to that. TH will keep us updated.

15) Next Bureau meeting

It should take place before the 4 weeks deadline. Monday 3 April evening is proposed online and starting at 18 h 30 CEST. It will be only focused on the Congress.

The meeting ends at 20 h 30 CET.