



Secretary General Report 2016 Spring Congress

Concerning the period of November 2015 – April 2016

Brussels, 31st March 2015

Dear Members,

Please find below an overview of my work in past 6 months.

Events

We have concluded with great success the Autumn Congress of 2015. I am happy with the implementation and the financial results were also positive. Our Finnish member organisations were tireless in their support. Still in 2015 we had one further event, the CAP working group, in which we received about ten members in our headquarters discussing the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy. Besides the logistical and financial management, I also facilitated the initial communication for members and gathered the speakers.

This year we had two events, the first in late February in Skopje, and the second in mid-March in Brussels. In Skopje, with the kind support of Hans van Baalen, MEP, we provided a communications training for our Macedonian members. In Brussels, with the support of ELF, we did the first part of our European defence project, with a workshop where me, together with our volunteer Sam Hill and with Havard Sandvik from FNF, guaranteed a



very high level of speakers, including two MEPs, representatives from the military industry, the European Defence Agency and the EEAS.

As I write this, we are naturally busy with the implementation of our Spring Congress, where we are having again a fantastic cooperation with our members, JUNOS.

Staff, Office and Finances

In December we concluded the contract with Mitch Devinck. I was thrilled for having worked with Mitch, who was always professional and friendly, and was a great help for me. In January and February we received a volunteer, Sam Hill, who helped both in implementing the Skopje and Brussels events, though he could not continue as he got an internship in the European Commission. Following the footsteps of Edgaras, they both also became individual members of LYMEC, which I presume it means they were equally pleased with their experience among us.

From the Erasmus + grant we got excellent news. Not only did we secure the financing for 2016, but we also received 96% of the remaining amounts for 2015, which should give us some breathing space this year.

On the other hand, from ALDE Group we have been informed that the payment of their political grant will no longer be done in a lump sum but as reimbursements of real costs associated with events. This will imply a significant overhaul of our procedures and financial management, as we this implies an increase of bureaucratic work and reduction of our operational flexibility.

I am working with the appointed Secretary General for 2016-2018 on finding solutions that allow LYMEC to keep its work and avoid wasting financial resources.

Representation

I have continued representing LYMEC in multiple meetings with our partners (ALDE Party, Group, CoR, ELF and European Youth Forum).



I have also represented LYMEC in some public meetings, such as debates (PPYO, due to take place in the EP on the 18th of April, and earlier this year on youth unemployment at the Université Libre de Bruxelles) or conferences (meeting with Turkish civil society representatives, at an FNF event). I have also visited member organisations (electoral congress of YMRF) and joined an event for centre and right PPYO's organised by the International Republican Institute. I have kept contacts with IRI and manifested our interest in further developing cooperation opportunities.

Final message

It was a true pleasure working for LYMEC for the past 2 years. It feels like it was much more because indeed my involvement with LYMEC started in 2008 and was deep since the very start. When I became Secretary General I had already managed several events, campaigns and projects, updated the website multiple times and kept close contact with many of its organisations and individual members.

I am forever grateful for all the political, professional and human experience I got from this great organisation and I would like to thank all those that gave me their confidence. Maybe nowadays this might seem odd, but back in 2012 when I became a board member it was not really natural that an individual member, coming from a country without a member organisation, would have the opportunity to get where I did. It will remain for me as a proof of what Liberalism and the European project both mean in real life.

Best regards,



IGOR CALDEIRA
Secretary General