



Secretary General's Report

Danica Vihinen

May – October 2017

Dear congress, dear members, dear fellow liberals,

I feel it was just yesterday I was writing my last SG report but here we are, it's been five months and it's time for the next one. Time truly flies when you're having fun! And I am. I want to thank you all for providing me with the opportunity to work with something I'm truly passionate about, it's not everyone who can say they genuinely enjoy their job but I certainly do.

In order to make my report more comprehensive I've divided it into three sections: Administration, Events and Policy & Outreach, reflecting the core areas of my work. I hope this gives you an overview of what it is I'm actually doing all day.

Administration

The day-to-day running of the office is probably the part that you, as members, have the least insight to. Paying bills, managing the bookkeeping, staying in touch with all of you, our partners and financiers, finding and booking event venues, arranging travels and writing grant applications and reports is, however, what takes up most of the time of the secretariat. I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to my former administrative assistant Paulína Gono and the current one, Rick Brans, for their excellent and hard work in helping me keep the ship that is LYMEC floating - at times it feels like there simply are not enough hours in a day or days in a week but with the help of the assistant we manage even the worst storms.

Given that the organisation sets increasingly more ambitious goals for itself and continuously expands the scope of activities, however, means we will soon reach the limit of what a secretariat of one Secretary General and a continuously changing assistant are able to manage. My recommendation would therefore be for us to explore different possibilities of engaging a third person in the office without it having severe financial implications on LYMEC.

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Events

Unlike the administrative part, the events are what you, as members, clearly see us doing. As you might have noticed the number of activities during a year have steadily increased for the past years, much due to the very beneficial project deal we have with the European Liberal Forum. Our aim is to cater to the needs of all our member organisations by providing a variety of different events of both more capacity building and policy shaping character, while still keeping to the guidelines set up by our own plan of action and the priorities of the different financiers.

Since the Spring Congress we have organised a (well overdue) book launch of the Defending Europe publication, a Political Hackathon on Youth Unemployment, the ALDE Summer Academy (namely in cooperation with YDE), the communications training "Getting the Liberal Message Out" and the yearly Young Leaders' Meeting. With the exception of the Summer Academy all of the mentioned events are part of our project deal with ELF, which means we can offer them without participation fees but it also requires a lot from the secretariat by means of reporting before, during and after the event.

Policy and outreach

Another part of the job of the Secretary General is the policy and outreach and networking. Besides keeping a continuous dialogue with our financiers, I also keep in contact with other partners like other entities within the liberal family, Members of the European Parliament, other Party-Political Youth Organisations, and the European Youth Forum, as well as other stakeholders. I try to attend seminars, debates and roundtables by different organisers as much as my other obligations provides time for, in order to keep up good relations with partners but also to get new insights for our own policy work.

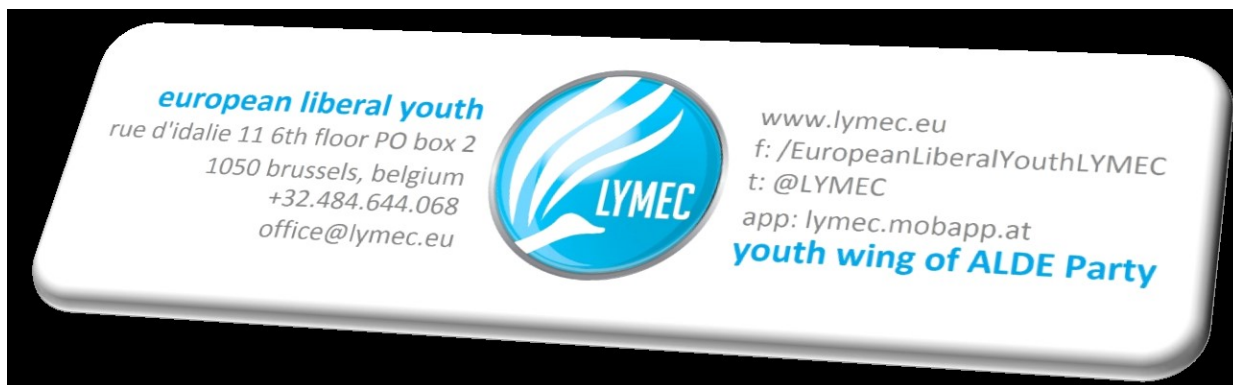
A central part of our outreach work is to welcome our own member organisation at the office when they're visiting Brussels, and I would encourage all of you to always contact the office if you're planning a study trip or other visit to Brussels. Not only are we always ready to give a presentation about LYMEC and what we do, but we are also happy to

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help with suggestions and contacts for other parts of your programme. We are here for you, so please use this opportunity.

An important part of my work is also to, in cooperation with Edgaras as the responsible Bureau Member, provide guidance and support to the Individual Members' Section of LYMEC. We are very proud of this truly pan-European part of our organisation and I'm very happy to see the motion on the re-organisation of the IMS being put forward to this congress. It is something we have worked on for quite a while in order to find a solution that satisfies the current needs of the IMS while still leaving room for further development of the section. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Edgaras, as well as the IMS delegates and also the Bureau for their relentless work on this.

Last, but not least, I would like to congratulate the Bureau on a successful year so far, and also thank the Bureau Members for stepping in when needed and helping the secretariat out with everything from event reporting to double-checking participants lists. You're the best, and it's a true privilege to work with you. Special thanks to Sissel and Svenja for being so supportive and understanding and just in general awesome superwomen!

As always, I stay at your disposal for any questions or comments you might have regarding my work and the secretariat.

Yours in Liberalism,
Danica

Events attended

Dates	Place	Event / Purpose	Organisation(s)
11-12 May 2017	Stockholm Sweden	ELF Seminar "Educating Europe"	ELF, LYMEC
12-14 May 2017	Stockholm Sweden	LYMEC Congress	LYMEC
14 May 2017	Stockholm Sweden	Bureau Meeting	LYMEC
31 May 2017	Brussels Belgium	ELF RDR: Book Launch "Defending Europe"	ELF, LYMEC
6 June 2017	Brussels Belgium	FNF "Europe Dialogue Dinner"	FNF Europe

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youth wing of ALDE Party

9-11 June 2017	Andorra de Villa Andorra	Hackathon on Youth Unemployment	ELF, LYMEC
21 June 2017	Brussels Belgium	4th of July Reception	US Mission to the EU
22 June 2017	Brussels Belgium	Public Hearing « Citizens' Fate in the EU »	European Parliament Committee on Petitions
22 June 2017	Brussels Belgium	RDR: Fighting Populists, Fighting Fences	ELF, Republikon
28-30 June 2017	Brussels Belgium	ALDE Group Summer Academy	ALDE Group, LYMEC, YDE
14-16 July 2017	Gdansk Poland	Getting the Liberal Message Out	ELF, LYMEC
6 September 2017	Brussels Belgium	ALDE Party End of Summer Reception	ALDE Party
8-10 September 2017	Podgorica Montenegro	Young Leaders Meeting "Leading for Liberalism"	ELF, LYMEC
10 September 2017	Podgorica Montenegro	Bureau Meeting	LYMEC
17 September 2017	Brussels Belgium	Internal Audit	LYMEC
22 September 2017	Brussels Belgium	ELF GA and Competence Center Meetings	ELF
27 September 2017	Brussels Belgium	PPYO Debate	European Youth Forum, JEF Europe
30 September 2017	Podgorica Montenegro	Liberal Youth of Montenegro Congress	LY Montenegro
9 October 2017	Brussels Belgium	Liberal Academy of Western Balkans	Centerparty Intenational Foundation

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