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youth wing of ALDE Party

Bureau Report

Marijn de Pagter – Treasurer

September 2017-March 2018

Dear delegates and liberal friends,

The 2018 Bureau elections are only a few weeks from now, which means my mandate as LYMEC Treasurer comes to an end. This is my final Bureau report.

When I campaigned for the position of Treasurer two years ago, I distinguished three major goals for my mandate.

1. Start an alumni network;
2. Improve financial reporting;
3. Create crystal-clear financial regulations.

Alumni network

We formally set up the alumni network as a legal entity in Belgium a few months ago. The first fundraiser was organised in cooperation with IFLRY during the ALDE Congress in Amsterdam, last December.

Financial reporting and regulations

I redesigned the financial reports in autumn 2016. Thanks to your feedback, I've made several minor improvements to the Congress reports since then.

In cooperation with the auditors and the rest of the Bureau, I drafted a new financial protocol in the summer of 2017. It was adopted during our Congress in Sofia.

Financial issues in the past 6 months

As you might remember, there were two financial matters that remained unsolved at the time of our Autumn Congress in Sofia. I am happy to report that both have been fully solved.

1. A restaurant in Tallinn had not refunded a deposit of €4.200,-.

During our Congress in November 2016, we celebrated our 40th anniversary by organising a gala dinner. We made a clear financial agreement with the restaurant. LYMEC and the restaurant agreed on the following steps.

1. Before the event, LYMEC would pay a deposit of 4.200 euros;
2. After the event, our sponsor would pay the full invoice (including the deposit);
3. After the payment by our sponsor, the restaurant would return the deposit of 4.200 euros to LYMEC.

It took us a lot of effort to retrieve the deposit. We sent several reminders by email, while our Estonian member organisation ERPY regularly contacted the restaurant by phone. However, the deposit was not returned.

The deposit was only returned after we sent a registered letter to the restaurant in October 2017. We clearly stated that we would consider starting a legal procedure if the restaurant would not refund the deposit. A few weeks later, we received an email from the restaurant saying they had forgotten about it. Finally, they returned the deposit a few weeks later.

2. The hotel invoices of our Congress in Stockholm were drafted incorrectly, which left a bill of nearly €20.000 unpaid.

Our Congresses are mostly sponsored by our partners ALDE Group, ALDE Party and ELF. Despite clear instructions (regarding what should be invoiced to whom), the Stockholm Congress hotel compiled incorrect invoices for our sponsors. Only two of our three sponsors were invoiced (and incorrectly).

Initially, the hotel staff claimed that it could not edit the invoices because it had changed from a Best Western hotel to a Scandic hotel. Without edited invoices, however, our sponsors could not settle the payments.

Ultimately, we sent a registered letter to the hotel in Stockholm in October. As it was not picked up from the post office, we sent a scanned version by email as well. A few days later, we contacted the hotel manager by phone, who connected us with their accounting firm. The accounting firm created new invoices so that the problem could finally be solved.

Events and meetings attended

I have attended the following meetings and events since my latest Bureau report.

Dates	Place	Event / Purpose	Organisation(s)
15 October '17	Sofia <i>Bulgaria</i>	In-person Bureau Meeting	LYMEC
20 November '17	Brussels <i>Belgium</i>	Bookkeeping at the office	LYMEC
1 – 3 December '17	Amsterdam <i>The Netherlands</i>	ALDE Party Congress	ALDE Party
10 February '18	Brussels <i>Belgium</i>	Internal audit	LYMEC
10 February '18	Brussels <i>Belgium</i>	New year's reception	Jong VLD
19 February '18	Brussels <i>Belgium</i>	External audit	LYMEC

More information

Should you have any questions about this report, feel free to contact me through Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter or email: marijn@lymec.eu. I look forward to hearing your feedback.

Finally, I want to extend my gratitude to the member organisations that gave me the opportunity to serve as Treasurer in the LYMEC Bureau. Even more so, I want to thank my fellow Bureau members for their cooperation and for making these two years in the LYMEC Bureau an unforgettable experience.

I look forward to an amazing “farewell” Congress in Berlin – but I’m sure it won’t be my last LYMEC event. I look forward to joining the Alumni network and to seeing you all at future events.

Kind regards,

Marijn de Pagter
LYMEC Treasurer