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youth wing of ALDE Party

Secretary General's Report

April – October 2018

Dear young liberals,

I want to start by thanking you all for agreeing to renew my mandate at the Spring Congress in Berlin. With this report I will try to shed some light on what I have been up to since then, and I hope it will prove satisfactory to you.

The first month(s) after the Spring Congress my task was mainly to keep the ship floating while the new Bureau was settling into its tasks. It is always a big change when you have a new team that needs to find their ways of working together and dividing the tasks among the members, but I would say the transition was quite smooth. Especially after the first Bureau Meeting and team building weekend in Brussels in May things really started picking up.

Another thing that kept me busy during the spring was trying to make sure that the organisation is GDPR compliant, since the General Data Protection Regulation had quite some impact on how we collect and store data. This required us to make some changes that also effect the members, for example we had to ask all recipients of our newsletter for their consent to continue storing their data and sending them the newsletter and other updates. As only a fraction of the people in our mailing list actively gave their consent, the newsletter is now reaching fewer people. We are though steadily increasing the number of recipients by actively promoting it on social media every time we have sent it. The new GDPR rules also means that people need to sign up to the newsletter themselves, so Member Organisations can no longer simply send a message to the office saying, "please add this person".

Another very time-consuming task was drafting the concept note, and later project proposal, for our ELF project for 2019. The deadline for the concept note was already in June, and the project proposal subsequently in July. Since the ELF project is literally how we finance the absolute majority of our events, it is of utmost importance that the proposal is well thought-through and written. In practice this means that the events for 2019 had to be conceptualised already in June 2018, and by July we had to provide draft programmes, suggested speakers, budgets and venues for the events. As the decision on the proposals for 2019 will only be made at the ELF GA a week after submitting this report, I can't say more about the proposed activities at this point other than that the focus will be on the elections and securing a liberal presence Europe-wide after the elections.

As we are on the topic of grants and applications, I have to address the fact that we did not receive the full 20% that was left of our 2017 Erasmus+ grant from the European Commission. This is due to the fact that they did not approve all our reported statutory events, as some events (external audit and ALDE Congress) are not accepted as statutory events even though they are mentioned in our statutes, and also because two events (Young Leaders Meeting and a Bureau Meeting) were organised in a non-eligible country (Montenegro). We were not aware of Montenegro not being an eligible country until after the events had already taken place, as the instructions were less clear until October

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2017. The way the grant is calculated (a certain fixed sum per statutory event and a certain fixed sum per full-time equivalent staff) we did not reach the needed events / staff to get the maximum grant. This is also because the application submitted in November 2016 foresaw a part-time assistant, and even though we later managed to find a way to employ the assistant full time the grant is never approved for more than what is mentioned in the application. We have taken note and have made sure to include enough eligible events in eligible countries as well as two full-time staff in the application for 2018, so this should not be repeated next year.

Other things on my agenda the past six months have been different stakeholder meetings, assisting the IMS delegates and helping with the IMS reform process, generally supporting the Bureau in their daily management of the organisation and most importantly, working closely with the treasurer to stay on top of our finances. It became clear from quite early on that some of the improvements made by the previous treasurer are in fact hampering more than helping, so Lena has taken it upon herself to review the financial guidelines and propose some changes in order to reinstall some flexibility without jeopardising the internal checks and balances. We have also spent quite some time correcting mistakes in the bookkeeping that resulted from over-enthusiastic automatization.

A large portion of my time is also dedicated to the preparation of events, including overseeing the logistics and making sure everything runs smoothly before and during the events as well as securing the reporting afterwards. Many of these tasks are invisible to the participants and the membership in general, but I would like to take this opportunity to stress that there are complications if you don't register allergies on time, let us know your preferred roommate by the deadline, when you change delegates, etc. that you might not always think about. So, my plea to you all is to please make sure you provide us with all relevant information already when registering for events, that way we can focus on the actual content of the events.

I also want to underline that especially when it comes to the event preparations, but also in the daily office management, I would be completely lost without my assistant. I have had the great pleasure of working with highly motivated and incredibly skilful assistants, who all have been an enormous asset to this organisation. Most recently I had the amazing help of Chris Giapitzis Papandreou, without whom I would probably not be here to write this report. He was an incredible support during the transition to a new Bureau, while the Bureau members were still figuring out their tasks. In general, I want to once again point out that this organisation would not keep running the way it does without all Bureau Members also giving a lot of their free time to the organisation and hands on helping with all forms of tasks. I also want to officially welcome the new assistant, Huw James, to the team. Huw has also been amazing jumping right into things from day one. It says a lot about our organisation I think, that we are able to time and again recruit such great assistants.

Last but not least, I would like to thank the new Bureau for their help and support, and for not losing their minds with my constant nagging regarding boarding cars, flight times, receipts and reports. From the perspective of the secretariat the organisation is in very good hands with the current leadership.

Yours in Liberalism,
Danica

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Events and meetings attended

Dates	Place	Event / Purpose	Organisation(s)
14.4.2018	Belgrade	Meeting with Mladi LDP	LYMEC, Mladi LDP
20.4.2018	Brussels	ELF General Assembly	ELF
23.4.2018	Brussels	Presentation to Magma Academien	Magma
27-28.4.2018	Brussels	YFJ COMEM	European Youth Forum (YFJ)
27.4.2018	Brussels	GDPR information day	Youth for Exchange and Understanding
2.4.2018	Brussels	EP LGBTI intergroup event	LGBTI Intergroup
4.4.2018	Brussels	Opening ceremony of Belgian Pride	City of Brussels
7.5.2018	Brussels	Cities4Europe, Europe4Citizens	EUROCITIES
16.5.2018	Brussels	LYMEC drinks	LYMEC
17-18.5.2018	Brussels	Meetings with YFJ, ELF, ALDE Group office, Euractiv, FNF	LYMEC (DV, SH)
18-20.5.2018	Brussels	Bureau meeting and team building weekend	LYMEC internal
23.5.2018	Brussels	wakEU planning meeting	Union of European Federalists
29.5.2018	Brussels	Information day new NGO law	European Association for the Education of Adults
6.6.2018	Brussels	CCC Brand Freedom Day	Consumer Choice Centre
7.6.2018	Brussels	EURACTIV panel debate	EURACTIV
14.6.2018	Brussels	Summit of young politicians planning meeting	ALDE CoR, LYMEC
19.6.2018	Brussels	Nanny State Index 2018 launch event	EPICENTER
20.6.2018	Brussels	US Independence Day celebration	Mission of the US to the EU
27-28.6	Brussels	ALDE Summer Academy	ALDE Group, LYMEC, YDE
27.6.2018	Brussels	Vote vote vote Book Launch	LYMEC, ELF

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8-11.7.2018	Chania	Speaker at Young Liberals Greece Summer School	YLG, FNF Greece
12.7.2018	Brussels	Presentation for FNF Europa Academy	FNF Europe
13-15.7.2018	Milan	IMS event Grassroots Campaigning	LYMEC
15.7.2018	Milan	LYMEC Bureau Meeting	LYMEC internal
16-19.7.2018	Brussels	Assistant interviews	LYMEC internal
29.8.2018	Brussels	UEF/JEF Summer Drinks	UEF and JEF
1.9.2018	Brussels	Internal Audit	LYMEC internal
5.9.2018	Brussels	ALDE Party Summer Drinks	ALDE Party
7-9.9.2018	Budapest	Young Leaders Meeting	LYMEC
9.9.2018	Budapest	Bureau Meeting	LYMEC internal
15.9.2018	Brussels	Financial Control Commission	YFJ
16-17.9.2018	Brussels	Summit of young local and regional politicians	LYMEC, YDE, ALDE CoR
21.9.2018	Brussels	ELF General Assembly	ELF
27.9.2018	Brussels	TUI Youth Governance event	TUI Group
10.10.2018	Brussels	SAAB / NATO annual seminar	SAAB
11-12.10.2018	Vilnius	Pre-Congress seminar campaigning on Social media	ELF, LYMEC
12-14.10.2018	Vilnius	Autumn Congress	LYMEC
14.10.2018	Vilnius	Bureau Meeting	LYMEC Internal