

## Secretary General's Report – Danica Vihinen October 2018 – March 2019

Dear members, dear young liberals,

I can't believe this is already my 6<sup>th</sup> report as Secretary General – time really flies when you're having fun!

In order to give you a comprehensive overview of the past months this report is divided into three parts: Administration, Policy and Outreach, and Events and Representation, reflecting the main fields of my work.

### Administration

As always, the end of last year and beginning of the new one was dominated by reports and applications: The application for the Erasmus+ Operational Grant, the application for the ALDE Group Grant for 2019, the reports to ELF and finally, the Erasmus+ report for 2018. The first months of 2019 I was also preoccupied by the closing of the financial year 2018, something that due to both late invoices and late payments to us proved to be quite an exercise that kept myself and the Treasurer busy for several days ahead of the internal audit as well as the external one. I would like to thank Lena for her hard work on this, and for keeping me sane during the late nights at the office.

In January we also finished the recruitment process for the new administrative assistant and a policy and campaign intern. We received many very good applications for both positions and interviewed several highly motivated persons. I am happy to say we once again have the privilege of having two engaged and hard-working young liberals supporting the team. Welcome Laurenz and Eleni!

In February we also organised the annual IMS Delegate elections, and the first elections to the Individual Members Steering Committee. I would like to thank all individual members who put themselves forward in the elections, and all those who voted, and of course once again congratulate the new delegates Tiago, Bãlint and Jordi, as well as the Steering Committee members Marina, Benjamin and Edgaras.

Knowing that the upcoming months ahead of the European elections will be quite busy, me and the President already sat down in the beginning of March and had a first look at the ELF application for 2020, as the concept note will have to be submitted in late May or early June. With experience from the past years, we decided to propose a slight decrease in the number of events in order to be able to offer events of even higher quality and, at the same time, make it possible for more people to attend by having higher travel reimbursements.

## Policy and Outreach

The main policy outreach since last Congress has focused on the LYMEC manifesto and getting our views implemented in the ALDE Electoral Manifesto at the ALDE Congress, something I have to say the LYMEC Delegation once again did an amazing job in achieving under the leadership of our Political Officer Antoaneta. Besides the ALDE Congress, we have continued our efforts to advocate for a better version of the Copyright Directive, both within the ALDE Group and externally. Together with most of the other Party-Political Youth Organisations we co-signed a resolution on the topic for the European Youth Forum General Assembly, and it was adopted with a large majority. We are also coordinating measures to continue the joint efforts ahead of the vote in the European Parliament at the end of March.

Together with the policy and campaign intern I have also supported the President in preparing for various debates and interviews. We are also exploring a new debate tool and how it could be implemented in support of the policy discussions in LYMEC. Last but not least, I have supported the Bureau in drafting the Code of Conduct that was promised at the last Congress.

## Events and Representation

The probably most visible part of what we do as an organisation is the events we organise and representation on behalf of LYMEC to events organised by others. What is less visible to the outside is the work before each event: handling the logistics, putting together the programme, contacting the speakers, sending confirmation and practical information to participants, handling the agenda and of course the reporting afterwards. I would like to extend a big thank you to the Bureau members who have taken on a big part of the tasks by suggesting and contacting speakers and writing reports. All of the events would also be completely chaotic if it wasn't for the efforts by the administrative assistant, so thank you Huw and Laurenz!

An important part of what we do is also welcoming member organisations at the office in Brussels, as well as visiting events organised by our partners in order to tell participants about LYMEC. I would once again like to remind all our members that you're very welcome to visit our office whenever you're in Brussels, just drop the office a line while planning your visit and we will do our utmost to welcome you and give a presentation about the organisation!

I would like to once again thank you, all of you members, for your trust and support. These have been three amazing years and I have loved (almost) every minute. It's few people who have the fortune to get to work with and for something they're truly passionate about. I'm a very lucky girl. A big shout out to the Bureau, especially Svenja and Edgaras, for your hard work and dedication. As I have said before, the organisation is in good hands.

Yours in Liberalism,

*Danica*

## Events visited

| Date            | Venue                | Event / Purpose   | Organisation(s)       |
|-----------------|----------------------|---|-----------------------|
| 1.11.2018       | Sofia, Bulgaria      | YMRF 20 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary                                       | LYMEC, FNF, YMRF      |
| 8-10.11.2018    | Madrid, Spain        | ALDE Congress   | LYMEC, ALDE Party     |
| 8.11.2018       | Madrid, Spain        | LYMEC Alumni Event  | LYMEC                 |
| 10.11.2018      | Madrid, Spain        | LYMEC Bureau Meeting  | LYMEC                 |
| 17.11.2018      | Valletta, Malta      | PD Youth Conference   | LYMEC, ALDE Party     |
| 19.11.2018      | Brussels, Belgium    | FNF 60 Years Panel Discussion   | FNF                   |
| 21-25.11.2018   | Novi Sad, Serbia     | European Youth Forum GA   | YFJ                   |
| 30.11-2.12.2018 | Brussels, Belgium    | Brand Yourself, Present Yourself seminar (Young Changemakers Academy I) | ELF, LYMEC            |
| 2.12.2018       | Brussels, Belgium    | Bureau Meeting  | LYMEC                 |
| 8.1.2019        | Brussels, Belgium    | ALDE Group New Year reception   | ALDE Group            |
| 17.1            | Brussels, Belgium    | MR New Year Reception   | MR                    |
| 23.1.2019       | Brussels, Belgium    | FDP New Year Reception  | FDP                   |
| 25.1.2019       | Brussels, Belgium    | Presentation about LYMEC to SU national board                           | SU, LYMEC             |
| 2.2.2019        | Brussels, Belgium    | Internal Audit  | LYMEC                 |
| 5-7.2.2019      | Brussels, Belgium    | Learning by Doing seminar (Young Changemakers Academy II)               | ELF, LYMEC            |
| 5.2.2019        | European Parliament  | Building our Europe Together Panel Discussion                           | ELF, LYMEC            |
| 6.2.2019        | Brussels, Belgium    | JUNOS visit to the LYMEC office   | JUNOS, LYMEC          |
| 9.2.2019        | Berlin, Germany      | ALDE Party Council and Campaign event                                   | ALDE Party, LYMEC     |
| 10.2.2019       | Berlin, Germany      | Bureau Meeting  | LYMEC                 |
| 15.2.2019       | Brussels, Belgium    | External Audit  | LYMEC                 |
| 25.2.2019       | Brussels, Belgium    | YL visit to the LYMEC office  | YL, LYMEC             |
| 28.2-3.3.2019   | Gummersbach, Germany | Young Changemakers Academy III  | LYMEC, FNF            |
| 5.3.2019        | Brussels, Belgium    | SU visit to the LYMEC office  | SU, LYMEC             |
| 5.3.2019        | Brussels, Belgium    | JNC visit to the LYMEC office   | JNC, LYMEC            |
| 15-17.3.2019    | Paris, France        | Digitalisation is the Future Present                                    | ELF, LYMEC, FORES, JR |