

## **MINUTES**

### **Online Autumn Congress Bureau meeting**

### **15 November 2020**

This meeting was supposed to take place in the aftermath of our Congress in Paris, France, but due to the travel restrictions with regard to the ongoing COVID-19, as well as Belgium where our seat and office is located, the time and place of holding the meeting had to be adapted.

**Time: Sunday 15 November between 10 h 00 and 12:30 h;**

**Venue: Instead of Paris, France, an online Zoom Bureau meeting is to take place.**

**Attending: Antoaneta Asenova (AA), Dan-Aria Sucuri (DAS), Marten Porte (MP), Marina Sedlo (MS), Laia Comerma (LC), Ida-Maria Skytte (IS), Ines Holzegger (IH) and Bălint Gyévai (BG).**

**Meeting starts at 10 h 05**

#### **1) Congress outcomes - AA/MP/BG - 1h**

*-Openslides:*

A few shortcomings to be listed:

- Ability to put the full text and especially content of an amendment on the projector
- Amendments to amendments and amendments after deadline to be made possible
- Voting administration functionalities could be improved

*- Policy:*

- MS explains that it went quite well, we have passed new resolutions and policies. We also continued the cleaning of the policy book.
- MS and Lucasta to take care of the follow up before we lose the platform at the end of the month. They will update the policy book and the archival document based on the decisions taken.

*- Finances:*

- All documents were approved, nothing to add.

*- Membership:*

- BG will update the database and welcome them by creating an account on the website

**The Bureau acknowledges the disaffiliation of EYMU and voids their previous debt.**

*- Statutes:*

- SG mandate was changed by the Congress with the unlimited option preferred. This will be reflected in the both EN/FR versions of the final statutes.
- BG will reach out to the Belgian organisations (Jong VLD and Jeunes MR) and improve the last French version of the statutes.
- Then we will go back to the notary for submitting and registering the changes
- The goal is to have submission to authorities and payment of the notary by mid-December.

Kasper's (RU) proposed changes to Congress rules/Statutes regarding voting rules were discussed. We will get back to him and ask him to submit this for the next Congress. We will clarify with him the deadlines. **The Bureau does not see the necessity of the proposed changes because the Congress rules specify/clarify the statutes on this point. However, any full MO or representatives from the IMS can propose changes and the Congress will decide.**

*-Congress rules:*

- They were adopted, and an updated version will be added on the website and shared with delegates in due time.

*- Secretary General:*

- BG is appointed for 2 years with an important backing from the delegates
- He thanks the Bureau for the trust and he is looking forward to the challenges ahead

*-Minutes:*

- BG and Annemiek to finalise them in the coming 2 weeks

*- Committee of Discipline and Arbitrage:*

- New mandate of 2 years with 5 new members was approved
- BG to reach out to them to introduce them to the job
- BG will also let them know about the RU/Civil Forum case

*- Feedback from the MOs on the working groups on resolutions:*

- reversed voting;
- explanations to MOs needed not only at the beginning but also towards the end, if a decision is called for;
- vote weight of organizations in the WG process to be taken into account.

## **Feedback on Congress**

### **AA:**

- Report on Bureau activities was too long, we need to make it shorter next time. It should be shorter in the general direction but also on each Bureau component.
- Not being that apologetic next time is important, especially regarding the statutes.. We were operating in a difficult environment,we must apologise when needed but we shouldn't overdo it.

- Mistakes were probably made in the preparation of the “Chairing” part. We focused a lot on how they use the digital platform and not how familiar they are with the rest of the documents/rules. There was a lack of chairmanship at some point, and it doesn’t have to be on the Bureau to step in.

**MS:**

- She had to step in more than usually needed so we have to focus better on the qualities of the chairs we recruit. We should privilege experience and leadership in chairing probably.

**LC:**

- Context, technical components are very important to keep in mind;
- Personal aspect, what profile the chairs have is important;
- Also the experience matters;

A mix of all these should be the features to look at.

**IH:**

- Countdown on the projector to be used for next time

**AA:**

- In case of a Digital Congress, all 3 of the chairs should have chaired at least one other Congress, so that they are well aware of how the Congress goes;
- If in person, at least 1 chair that chaired before.

**Bureau responsibilities feedback:**

For DAS:

- Be more neutral and clearer when meaning to be, find a clear balance of neutrality, if negative presented, then also positive.

For MP:

- Don’t be so strong on the importance of Bureau recommendation and less harsh on MOs having to follow it.

For IS:

- We need to react a bit quicker on snap events and actions coming up.
- Also a comment to all to follow updates in Europe and flag it to Ida so that we can react as quickly as possible.

For IH:

- See how we can involve Ines more proactively in the processes behind the platform during Congress.

For LC:

- The Congress was a less intensive time compared to other events. This is explained by the fact that it is a shared bureau responsibility.
- Maybe be the back-up for the respect of the rules together with BG.

For MS:

- Feedback on the Working Groups on resolutions for next time.

AA brings up the criticism from MOs regarding the Working Groups:

- What we don't discuss at Congress from the WG are the positive recommendations. Negative ones are discussed. WG is a first step to evaluate the support for a proposal. It's an unbalanced representation but gives an idea. It helps to take out what has broad agreement, technical aspects or even language corrections.
- If there is too much in question or negative, it always goes to Congress.
- We need to establish a protocol as a Bureau on what happens in these Working Groups, we need to know that the same processes are taking place in both rooms, otherwise it is not representative.
- We need to weight better the representation in Working Groups and have a similar amount of delegates in them.
- Way ALDE did it was good and would be offered to the Bureau: "Anyone against or willing to speak against"? If not, then it's adopted and goes with positive recommendation. We have to streamline these processes.

MS clarifies that once you start something, you have to stick to it. There needs to be a whole concept and structured plan for this for next time, she agrees.

AA proposes to follow what ALDE did and come up with a clear plan.

It should be something as follows:

1. Ask if there is anyone against it? If yes, make your point
2. Defend your amendment, maximum 1 speaker against and 1 in favor (exceptions when heated debates)
3. Vote (vote on the amendment - YES/NO/ABSTAIN) NOT a negative vote
4. If more than 60% in favor of the amendment then its positive
5. Explain properly that the amendment can be reopened to Congress if need be

IS emphasizes that we need a proper plan for next time, we all had to do this for the first time ever digitally, we shouldn't be too harsh on any single Bureau Member but we need to improve for next time, learning from this process.

DAS explains that we have a quite honest talk, we do this in our spare time, sometimes it happens that we can't make it. Structural improvement is important but if you don't have time, you should use the opportunity to ask for help in our team (7+3 staff). It can also be a structural issue and we then need to change something.

AA proposes a 1 on 1 meeting with MS to discuss the issues and see what we can do as a team to improve the situation and have a feedback from it.

LC adds that we have to realise that sometimes we need help and support. We can just ask anyone. Would be happy to help in policy if need be.

On the question of having another OpenSlides guide for the chairs, BG and AA would rather advocate for more training and practice and less reading.

**The Bureau decides on the WG that MS will come up with a structured procedure on how to organise them so that fairness is guaranteed. She will examine if possible to have one voting member/organisation to get a general feel and the rest as observer status. She will examine the ALDE structure if that fits for us and adapt it. Explanation to MOs to be delivered before and during the processes. The improvement points are taken and it has to be implemented next time.**

As a conclusion, AA congratulates the whole team for a good Congress, we will improve things, it was only the first 6 months. It was a productive Congress on the policy side as much as London in terms of accepted proposals.

BG brings to the attention of the Bureau, the issues with MOs logging in and out and not following rules/guides that were sent before. Membership should improve how it gets information from what we send out. We lost a lot of time with reasonings and at roll calls because of some MOs not following/not being prepared enough.

## **2) Decision on website - MP/BG - 10 minutes (For decision)**

- We have 2 offers so far
- 1 pending
- 1 rejected

**The decision is postponed to the next Bureau meeting, we don't have enough offers and information yet. MP to send an info note before the next meeting to inform everyone ahead of the decision we will eventually take.**

## **3) Launch Cooperation project call - IH/BG - 5 minutes**

- We can launch on Wednesday when staff is back and we can have a visual then.
- BG to put it on the website and LC or AV to work on a visual on Wednesday.

## **4) Erasmus+ grant application - MP/BG - 10 minutes**

- The grant will be submitted next week by BG
- BG reminds the importance of the grant - MP and Lucasta helped
- LC to comment on it before submission

## **5) ELF - IH/BG - 15 minutes**

### **- Call for additional projects 2021**

#### **For decision**

BG explains that it would be useful for a YCA in person meeting:

- AA, DAS and MP sceptical about the possibility to have in person events during the first months of the year;
- IH and LC thinking its a rather good idea

It could be interesting, bring benefits: networking, present outcomes and bring them together. Not good if it goes online again, wouldn't be useful at all.

LC agrees that we shouldn't risk it if we aren't sure on what would happen.

IH adds that we can never be sure.

BG emphasizes that it might be a lot of work in terms of administrative aspects and we might face logistical challenges.

**The Bureau decides that it would be difficult and it adds a lot of workload for maybe nothing, also we can't cancel the project if it gets selected and we have to move it online again.**

**- ELF Lobbying Skill Camp online FNF**

- We need to do more on social media and dissemination in network to IOs in the coming days.

**- YCA III**

- We have 5/10 mentor sessions confirmed so far - alternatives are discussed for the remaining 5.
- We miss a speaker for the online communication session from Facebook, we will look at Microsoft as well.

**6) Report last ALDE BM - AA - 5 minutes**

- Not that much to report, mainly on the undertakings of the ALDE Academy and the situation in Estonia. They discussed the upcoming Council meeting as well.
- We had a win with the transnational list amendment that was accepted.

**7) MO news - 5 minutes**

- Italian Liberal Youth, meeting LC on Tuesday, she will report back after to the Bureau.
- IMS: Due to a lack of time, IMS delegates weren't quite prepared for the Congress. For the future delegates a "how to" document will be prepared. New elections in January.
- Changes at KOL and Young Liberals UK, they sent emails already for updates in the database.
- Youth MRF Congress next weekend, AA to give a speech. Election of the new President will take place.
- AA sent videos to support both our organisations in Bosnia and Herzegovina for the elections today. When asked, we do videos and if more than one, then we ask the other organisations too. We eventually stay out if there is conflict.

**8) Invitations - 5 minutes**

- 3H movement from Turkey invited Laia for an online event (Congress) + podcast for an FNF project with Antoaneta (we will check availability otherwise Laia to do it).

Questions to be addressed as part of the project:

- Regional issues or problems of Politics
- Lack of liberal values in the Europe
- Good practices to tackle up with issues of the Europe
- Comparison of two countries: Turkey and Europe

- Moria Hackathon from YLG, they are having it next weekend online. LC asked to send an email to the office inviting us. We will circulate the registration in our network.
- Invitation for the “Voice of youth” BDF ELF project, there is a request to AA to speak at the event + dissemination. The event will be on 30 November.
- Invitation for AA to moderate a session on 25 November with Kefim from Greece. LC will help prepare AA for this, it is about economics.

## 9) AOB - 10 minutes

### MP:

- Proposal to forgive the debts of TLDE and EYMU as a Bureau and take that out from the reserve. **The Bureau takes the decision to implement it.**

### MS:

- **Policy book clean-up:** She is willing to launch the policy book renewal process at the end of November. 1 representative/organisation will be included. We will launch a new call for participation for the process this time because a lot of people changed and it was a long-time ago.
- **Platform on the Conferences on the Future of Europe:** MS proposes the next meeting and process for next year January to have that after the Policy book process.
- **Jewish students association** asked when we would have the next meeting of the Working Group on Civil and Minority rights, MS will email IS and put them in touch to make the cooperation happen.

### IH:

- YFJ elections are taking place next week and there are also resolutions and amendments to analyse. Ines will go through them today and work on that. She interviews candidates as well on behalf of the Bureau.
- One person running for President, Sillja, would be supported by LYMEC. NYC and NGYOS get both one Vice-President. All candidacies could be found [here](#) and [here](#).

**The Bureau trusts Ines in this process and the Bureau supports it. Goal is to make our candidate Simon win.**

### LC:

- On the **expert database**, we should send out a reminder and see the already existing 41 inputs.
- The **Online Women’s Academy** proposal to be organised by LYMEC:  
LC would be in charge. We should launch the call right after the Digital Assembly and the event to be planned on 6 March. LC will come up with a concept and a new name that would fit.

**Meeting ends at 13 H 00**