



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF LIBERAL YOUTH

Dear liberal friends and colleagues,

With our last statutory meeting only 7 months ago and although it feels as if we as a bureau just started working, a lot has happened in our federation. Not only did we have to say goodbye to what I think has been our longest-serving staff member, Mane Manukyan, we were able to welcome Andrea Ugrinoska as our new Executive Director. The handover of the Executive Director was an important task that was shared between Danylo, Tone and me from late April until October.

The first few months, besides the recruitment process, centered mainly around planning ahead. As a bureau we drafted the Action Plan 2016-2018, which we are to accept at this statutory meeting. The final months of summer were mainly about grant applications for the European Youth Foundation and other partners, to make sure we have enough funds available for our events next year. The thematic focus for 2017 will relate to the Amman event theme: 'Self-Determination and Economic Rights'. We considered this to be a relevant focus, which includes a more constructive and concrete approach to solving many of the challenges the world faces today: migration and the refugee crisis, ongoing unemployment, economic hardship and the rise of populism. It is time for liberals globally to develop better answers.

Besides the ongoing day-to-day tasks mainly executed by the office, and the broader vision for our term, it was vital for me to focus on creating an effective environment for the bureau to work together. Therefore, I organised a targeted bureau training session during our Council meeting in The Hague in July. Those Bureau Members that continued to be involved since then, have shown great and continuous commitment. Although I cannot speak on their behalf, limited by immense distances and time zone constraints, I do feel like we have created a cooperative and enjoyable way of working together.

Moreover, this bureau is extremely glad with the legacy of the previous bureau when it comes to IFLRY's financial situation. Taking over treasurer tasks has been much more manageable for me, Andrea and Tone (supported by the rest of the bureau), given the continuous support from Daniel George, Mane Manukyan and Christian Scharling. Finally in October, I was able to send out the MO fee invoices in October and have been involved with the financial reporting and 2017 planning since then.

Several additional activities that we worked on as a bureau that deserve some attention here:

- Continuation of the programmes, including the Council meeting in The Hague and personally serving as the bureau buddy for the Human Rights Programme, which currently also includes the refugee working group. Daphnie Ploegstra, please keep up the great work;
- Increasing our online activities by working on the website, Facebook and Twitter. Hopefully Instagram will follow soon. A great shout-out to Tone, Anders and Ahmad;
- Continued lobbying via various channels for our partner organisations in need, especially Venezuela and Turkey, including the social media campaign #LibertadParaVenezuela. Everyone, please continue the fight, but continue to be safe;



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- Gather insights on the needs of MOs through a political priorities survey, of which the results will be published here, thanks to Sven Gerst.

In the upcoming months I wish to continue the work on upholding the financial stability that is (slowly, but) increasingly common for IFLRY, planning celebratory activities for IFLRY's 70th anniversary, extend communication with our membership outside of statutory meetings, and increase our lobbying efforts in international platforms.

Besides the gratitude already expressed in previous parts of my report to former IFLRY-officers, I wish to extend my sincerest thanks and love to our Pool of Trainers manager, who does not only support the execution of IFLRY's plans, spends a tireless amount of energy and time in writing grant proposals, but also is able to carry me through the crazy ride the Chinese-based IFLRY presidency has been since April.

Events:

- Myanmar School of Politics training session, Tsipaw, Myanmar, 28 May - 3 June;
- July-August: several coordination meetings with Dutch and German partners (D66, VVD, FNF);
- Council Meeting - The Hague, The Netherlands, July;
- CALD-IFLRY Seminar, Bali, Indonesia, 18-21 August;
- EC preparation meeting, London, United Kingdom, 2-4 November.