



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION
OF LIBERAL YOUTH

Dear Liberal Friends,

The first nine months have passed since the Bureau elections in Accra, Ghana. It is time now to reflect on my mandate as IFLRY Treasurer, which has been a challenging but, beyond any doubt, one of the most fulfilling experiences in my life.

To evaluate my activities, I would like to go through the three core pillars introduced within my election platform back in Ghana.

I. GOOD GOVERNANCE

Transition of responsibilities

The first months of my mandate were particularly focused on the handover of responsibilities from the outgoing Treasurer. I express my gratitude to Robert Landheer for thorough guidance in the complex world of IFLRY finances, availability for regular online meetings and ongoing readiness to provide advice. Although there are still many questions arising along the way, this handover process has ensured a smooth continuation of IFLRY functioning in the financial realm.

2017 wrap-up

The financial year 2017 was sorted out during August-September 2018, and the accounts, presented for the approval by Member Organisations, were certified. The respective reports were also sent for submission to the tax authorities in order to prevent the recurrence of the accounts blockage situations. Thanks to the efforts of our Office, the grant-related reporting for 2017 was done in due time.

2018 financial situation

Two major setbacks, unforeseen in this year's budget, have influenced the financial standing of IFLRY: the reduction of the Structural Grant of the Council Of Europe (from 24,000.00 EUR to 15,871.00 EUR) and the loss of the Erasmus+ KA3 Grant (total of 49,000.00 EUR). The inevitable budget restructuring has put constraints on the available financial resources, notably for staff salaries, Bureau and Council meetings, Programmes funding. The current state of finances shows a larger decrease of reserves than was initially expected in 2017. However, the budget reshuffling was conducted in the most optimal way and the 2019 budget planning aims to improve our financial capacity.

Financial administration

The first months of my mandate are also characterized by constant collaboration with the IFLRY financial assistant, including weekly financial and book-keeping reporting on his part. Owing to the financial resources limitation, we have been left without financial assistance since August 2018. Together with the relocation processes, this put an additional burden on the Office and to a certain extent limited the frequency of book-keeping procedures. Nevertheless, the effectiveness of our financial administration has improved after the successful relocation to Berlin and the appointment of the new Executive Director. The additional in-person meetings between me and the Office are held in Berlin in order to put the book-keeping and other finance-related matters in order. Furthermore, the

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handover process between the outgoing Executive Director and the incoming one has already started and aims at securing, inter alia, a smooth transition of financial tasks.

Collaboration with auditors

Since the start of my mandate, periodical online meetings were held between me and auditors. I am very thankful to Emmanuel Osei and Reender Reenders for their valuable inputs and observations. The further strengthening of our cooperation with auditors remains among the priorities on the way to securing transparent and due functioning of IFLRY. The in-person audit meeting is already scheduled for the beginning of 2019 in Berlin.

II. GLOBAL FUNDRAISING

2019 Funding

With the extensive efforts of the Bureau, and in particular of our Secretary-General, it was possible to secure applications for previous year's grants (e.g. CoE Work Plan grant), as well as to open new funding opportunities (e.g. with the SIDA grant). The outlook for next year is much brighter and we expect to revitalize the financial standing of IFLRY in 2019.

Diversified opportunities

We continue to explore potential funding possibilities and want to go beyond the European grants framework. For instance, during the DPP & IFLRY event in Taiwan this August, our Secretary-General and I got a wonderful chance to establish contacts and negotiate prospects for collaboration with the Taiwan Foundation for Democracy.

III. HEALTHY MEMBERSHIP

Membership fees administration

This year Member Organisations were invoiced in accordance with the new Membership Fees system adopted during the 2017 GA in Beirut. The respective modifications were made to calculations, reflecting the updated organisational details submitted through the IFLRY 2018 Survey.

Continuous outreach to MOs

Returning Member Organisations to good standing remains one of the core priorities in our work. To date, we continue negotiating debts coverage issues with several MOs, while several more MOs has already started the debt payment processes.

EVENTS ATTENDED:

- IFLRY General Assembly, March 2018, Accra, Ghana.
- LYMEC Congress, April 2018, Berlin, Germany.
- ALDE-PACE Meeting, April 2018, Strasbourg, France.
- IFLRY Bureau Meeting, May 2018, Budapest, Hungary.
- IFLRY & FNF Hong Kong Meeting, July 2018, Hong Kong.



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- IFLRY & DPP Taiwan Seminar, August 2018, Taipei, Taiwan.
- In-person Office Meeting, October 2018, Berlin, Germany.
- IFLRY General Assembly, November 2018, Barcelona, Catalonia.

These nine months were both hectic and rewarding. A lot has been done by the Bureau 2018/19 during this uneasy transitional period. I am privileged to be surrounded by so energetic and visionary people.

Many thanks to IFLRY President Ahmad Al Rachwani and Secretary General Sven Gerst for their constant support and encouragement. And my deepest appreciation to our outgoing Executive Director Andrea Ugrinoska for the tremendous help during these months.

There is much more fruitful work to come!

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Olha Tsurkan', followed by a horizontal line.

Olha Tsurkan
Treasurer