

Bureau Report Frerik Kampman – Secretary-General

Utrecht, the Netherlands, October 2015

This bureau report covers the period since the last meeting in Vienna in April. As I expressed in my last report to the General Assembly, my main challenge was to find the right combination between IFLRY commitments and my work at the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In this report I will reflect on my work for IFLRY in the last seven months and some choices that we made. Additionally I will also share my priorities for the final five months of my mandate.

Campaign commitments

When I ran for Secretary-General, I made three commitments, on which I will shortly reflect here.

Communication: Delivering a regular newsletter continued to be difficult when all Bureau members were occupied with other commitments. We therefore worked together with the Office to have the coordinating role in the Office. We will evaluate this working arrangement during our Bureau Meeting in Santo Domingo. In terms of translation, I am happy to report that the Latin America Programme continues to deliver Spanish translations of documents. MO to MO cooperation: I was happy to play a role in the EU-Arab project organized by the Dutch Young Democrats. In my eyes these kind of projects can be taken up by other Member Organisations as well. It is a chance to develop new capacities in project management, especially when EU funds are involved. On the other side, the project was an example when it comes to non-formal education and intercultural learning, two central ideas in IFLRY's educational work.

Finances: Having worked hard to secure funds in the first year, my work focused on delivering the projects we secured funding for.

Reflection on April-October 2015

As I already announced at the General Assembly in Vienna, the time and effort I invested in IFLRY in 2014 was a great experience, but something I would need to reconsider in 2015 because of a new job. I think this is natural to 2-year mandates as we have in IFLRY. After consulting with Christian and the rest of the Bureau, I agreed to delegate some tasks to other Bureau Members and the Office, mainly related to the preparation of the EC in Santo Domingo. I am very thankful this was possible.

Highlight of the past period was the EU-Arab seminar in The Hague, where I could assist as a trainer. It was a great forum to tell about IFLRY, but mainly I was very happy to see that the techniques we apply in IFLRY seminars were successfully implemented in an MO-coordinated event with many IFLRY Member Organizations present. It is exactly the kind of MO-to-MO cooperation I wished to promote during my term. I encourage all MOs to reflect on their own capacities to play a role in these matters. Projects like these are great experiences to offer to members, and when more events like these are organized among IFLRY members, the Bureau can take a more coordinating / strategic role. Just a thought that I am more than happy to discuss with MO representatives!

Commitments for end of term

Some things I think need to be done, still remain on the table for the final months of our mandate. The Latin America project will be finishing as participants from the Santo Domingo seminar implement training events in their own organizations. The project needs to be properly reported back to the European Commission, a process I want to be involved with. Also, I want to work on an improved membership registration which I want to hand over to the next Secretary-General, including a way to document experiences with all MOs, so there is more collective memory in the Bureau as a whole. Finally, the consultation for what IFLRY should look like in 2020 is a nice way to end our mandate and feed any idea we have left into the next Bureau. During the EC in Santo Domingo, I am open to discuss with MOs what other priorities should be during the final months of our mandate.

Attended events:

April – General Assembly & Bureau Meeting (Vienna, Austria)

August – 2nd seminar of Latin America project (Barcelona, Spain)

September – EU-Arab seminar by the JD (The Hague, the Netherlands)