

Dear Liberal Friends,

There are several things I would like to highlight as President of the Federation since our last General Assembly in Vienna, Austria.

The spring has been less busy in terms of events attended, however, as always already being in the fall again, I have been and will attend many meetings. My less active spring is partly due to the less activities we see in this period, but also my ambitions to run for national parliament in Denmark. Indeed this took time away from IFLRY tasks, which caused setback to a few processes. Following our General Assembly, we set up a Statutory Working Group to go over the IFLRY statutes and Rules of Procedure. Even though a Call for a group was sent out not too long after the GA, the process only began in summer following the Danish elections. As such, my first apology for not being able to present you with concrete outcomes of the SWG yet. We have a good group and I'm confident that we will have some great proposals for a needed reform of IFLRY's statutory documents when we convene again for our 39th General Assembly in the spring 2016. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the SWG, Henrik, Sara, Sven, Robin, Pauline, Ab and Emine.

I'm pleased to inform you that IFLRY and I personally was re-elected for the Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe for the 2016-2017 mandate. The campaign and election took place a few weeks after our GA in Vienna and we were elected with the second most votes of all candidates in a very competitive election. The work in the Advisory Council has centred on youth participation at local and regional levels as well as young people's access to human rights.

It was also a great pleasure to be able to attend Liberal International's Isiah Berlin lecture, Liberal Leaders Meeting and Bureau Meeting in New York (USA) this September. The events took place sidewise to the UN General Assembly and just before the Annual ICMYO Meeting. As such, I and Pauline Kastermans (IFLRY Human Rights Programme Manager) attended the events and was able to influence both international liberal politics and international youth politics. We should be pleased with our relationship with Liberal International who invites us to meet ministers and liberal leaders from around the world. This is certainly not a given in international politics, where the conservatives and socialists face many difficulties with their adult parties. A big thank you to Pauline for her fantastic work in IFLRY's advocacy efforts.

I'm very pleased with the work of Tone Bjørndal who has been leading our Climate Change Programme ahead of COP21. Tone has secured great relations with CALD and CALD-Youth and has been able to assemble a good IFLRY delegation to the climate negotiations. As such the Bureau is also planning to make the COP21 a key priority in terms of presence, impact and visibility of IFLRY.

Special thanks also goes to Harriet Aingscough who was our editor in chief for Libel, IFLRY's new online blogging platform. I'm confident Libel will turn to an even bigger success, now with new people on board.

Our relations with partners such as the Liberal Democrats International, IDI, VVD, FNF, the European Youth Foundation, the European Commission seems to get even better. This is largely due to our fantastic Office, where Mane is still steering things ahead. In the summer we hired two Executive Assistants and I'm tremendously pleased with James and Rhiannon. Their work has already made IFLRY better. Also thank you to our Assistant and previously Intern Jockum, who stayed with us till the new Executive Assistants started in the Office.

We have a busy fall and winter ahead of us and soon the concrete planning for our 39th General Assembly including Bureau elections will take place. This Bureau is committed to do some of the last things needed to prep this Federation for the future and give the next IFLRY generation the opportunity for IFLRY to truly grow and assist liberal youth around the world. I'm proud of achievements and I look forward to the last months in Office. It is needless to say that I'm enjoying being President of this great Federation, however, with the end of our mandate in spring 2016, it will also be my time to go. New ideas and engagement are needed. If you are thinking to run, then don't hesitate to contact me.

I'm looking forward to see you all in Santo Domingo, the Dominican Republic. Showing IFLRY's global outreach is truly important and I'm proud that IFLRY is returning to Latin America after all these years.

All the best

Christian Scharling, IFLRY President