

Bureau Report Frerik Kampman – Secretary-General

Vlieland, Netherlands, March 2016

In this final bureau report I would like to reflect on the months since our last statutory meeting in Santo Domingo, but also take the chance to reflect on my whole term as Secretary-General. It was a great period in which I learned a lot, felt that I could really contribute to the federation, up to a point where I think I have fulfilled my initial campaign commitments when I was elected in Kraków in January 2014.

Campaign commitments

During my election campaign, I made three main commitments: Communication, MO to MO cooperation and Finances. I will briefly reflect on my achievements in each of the three fields.

Communication: In terms of communication, I owe it to Bobby Dean to come up with a smooth news letter format, which really helped us to communicate with the federation. Unfortunately it was not sent out as regular as it should have been. In terms of languages, I guess I surprise no one when I say that I love the fact that IFLRY has three official languages! To use them takes a lot of energy, which we noticed for example in our Latin America programme. However –and this is the red thread of my term- we cannot let language be a barrier to enter our federation.

MO to MO cooperation: Without making the federal structure obsolete, I think we should focus more and more on bilateral cooperation among MOs. This will be the flesh on the 'bones', the connections that IFLRY offers. One example, the EU-Arab summer school organized by the Dutch JD is something that I think should serve as an example, but also many other cooperations like the Norwegian-Turkish-Lebanese-Egyptian network, and for example the JuLi's on a visit to Côte d'Ivoire.

Finances: I mentioned in previous reports the successes that we as a Bureau delivered when it comes to the financial side of the federation. I want to thank Daniel George for a strict bookkeeping, even when sometimes I wanted to be more flexible and we couldn't. We owe it to a large extent to him that IFLRY's finances are looking brighter than before.

Reflection on November-March

As I have seen coming for many months before: my new job (which I am very happy with) meant less and less time for IFLRY. Not because I didn't want to, or because there was lack of time... There was certainly a lack of energy after a week of long working days. I realized that too many different processes were too much to handle. Given that fact, the end of our mandate comes at a good moment.

There are so many things I would still change in our federation. Or perhaps I should say 'enhance', cause many structures are at place. As with so many organizations, it is more about capacity. Our capacity to step up communication, both internal and external. Our capacity to make more political statements that go further than our Facebook page. Our capacity to influence decision making on topics that are dear to our membership. Our capacity to connect young liberal minded people around the world, instead of only in Europe. I believe our Bureau has showed that in many ways the boundaries can be pushed, but we need more people to put their time and energy in the federation. I am very happy

that a new group of those people will run for positions in the new Bureau and wish all of them the best of luck with their elections.

Attended events:

Santo Domingo seminar