



International Federation of Liberal Youth
Federación Internacional de Juventudes Liberales
Fédération Internationale des Jeunesses Libérales

IFLRY Executive Committee Meeting

November 24th, 2005
in Skopje, Macedonia

MINUTES

1.) Opening

- Welcome from IFLRY President Emil Kirjas
 - Last time for President Emil Kirjas' opening
 - Glad that the weather did not impede anyone's attendance
- Pance Angelov, President of LiDeM
 - Hopes that we will have a nice stay and that the decisions will propel us into the future of IFLRY and promote cooperation
 - The seminar is over and now the work starts
 - Hopes that the decisions made in the next few days will make IFLRY stronger and will give us more members
- Emil Kirjas, President of IFLRY
 - Executive Director will explain registration process for GA
- Monika Jankauskaite, Executive Director of IFLRY
 - Apology for separating people into two hotels due to NATO's appearance here; tomorrow, we will all move into Hotel Continental
 - Official registration will be postponed from 8:00 to 8:30 tomorrow at the Skopje Fair; you will receive documents then
 - At this time, you must also reconcile any membership fees
 - Please approach me with questions
- Emil Kirjas, President of IFLRY
 - GA from 9:30 AM until 1:00 PM will be broadcast live online for those who can not join us tomorrow
 - We do not have an Executive Committee member with us. VP Ramona Manescu has a new baby and we congratulate her.
 - Richard Diamond from Canada, another member, is on his way here and will be joining us tomorrow.
 - Asked for amendments on agenda; no one has any.

2.) Roll Call and Voting Rights

- Full members:
CF Belarus, CPPY Croatia, CUF Sweden, CYA Serbia, JD Netherlands, JFS Switzerland, JLRA Paraguay, JNC Catalonia, Jong-VLD Belgium, JOVD Netherlands, JuLis Germany, LDRS Albania, LDYS UK, LHG Germany, LiDeM Macedonia, LJCJ Lithuania, LLJ Lithuania, LUF Sweden, MC Poland, MLD



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Slovenia, NKL Finland, NUV Norway, RU 94 Denmark, SHINUI Israel, SU Finland, TNL Romania, UCJD Colombia, UJTL Senegal, VU Denmark, YAACP Estonia, YLC Canada, YLS Serbia

- Non-voting members:
FEL Belgium, JLA Andorra, YMRF Bulgaria, DPP-Youth Taiwan, Young Democrats of America USA
- Non-members:
LYMEC, ISEEL, Youth Initiative Nepal, IPL Peru, YLDA
- Number of votes: including one Bureau vote, a total of 28 votes
- In total 38 organizations present

3.) Adoption of the Agenda

- Emil Kirjas, President of IFLRY
 - Welcome to the Youth Initiative from Nepal and Young Liberals and Democrats from Asia, as well as Young Liberals from Southeast Europe (ISEEL).
 - The agenda is considered adopted.
 - Minutes of the previous meeting have been distributed in two forms: draft version from July from the EC and the revised version following amendments from the members.
 - Asked if anyone would like to contest the minutes; no one contested.
 - Adopted unanimously; no one contested or abstained

4.) Election of Returning Officers

5.) Reports from the Bureau

- Presented today, discussed tomorrow.
- Karol Jene, VP of IFLRY
 - Last year as VP was tremendous, thanks to others who have helped.
 - Not sure about goals he wanted to achieve but the learning experience of this last year helped him realize how difficult the job is.
 - Major problem in Bureau is communication. Sad to mention that he did not manage to change that.
 - E-News, website, and Libel were designed as a two-way information highway, but it does not yet work like this.
 - Information flow was slightly improved and E-News subscriptions and circulation increased slightly.
 - Kept good communication with Armenian Liberal Youth.



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- In Belarus, Liberal Generation will be applying for membership; there is also a group in Poland looking to cooperate in the future.
- Regarding visits to the region, he visited in July to LLJ and LJCJ to discuss future projects. Also met with another group to discuss restoring democracy in Belarus.
- August 2005: attended conference in Berlin.
- Sept. 2005: attended Congress, jointly organized in Bratislava. Also represented IFLRY in human rights conference in Warsaw which was a unique occasion for IFLRY to establish new contacts in Georgia.
- Over the last five months, he sent out reader on the most recent seminar (on media). Also, coordinated an event in Azerbaijan.
- Martin Sjögren, VP from Sweden
 - Had trouble making ends meet with professional job, so he has concentrated on most important aspects.
 - Made contact with African youth including two member organizations from Ivory Coast who could not make it here due to visa restrictions.
 - Outside of basic tasks, he has been to Taiwan to speak to international secretary of youth development and was on seminar team in Buenos Aires.
 - Worked with Swedish Youth and covered training for trainers and elections as well as education of women leaders in Ivory Coast.
 - Pleasure working with IFLRY in the last two years; would like to thank everyone who helped.
 - Two things most proud of: 1.) increased connections, especially with Africa, and raised expectations, and 2.) developing website structure.
 - Happy to support the incoming members of the Bureau.
- Paola Silva
 - Started original campaign about youth participation in Latin America
 - Latin American Youth Forum: presence of IFLRY in Latin America has increased, and Forum was part of strengthening the platform. They are not strong enough to continue their work alone, so we asked IFLRY if we could join them.
 - Cuba issue is increasing in importance in Latin America. Established many contacts regarding the Cuba issue.
 - Visited Paraguay and Uruguay and had meetings with people from there (and Argentina). Starting project on education in Uruguay. Received media feedback on initiative.
 - Attended Helsinki meeting and discussed Millennium Development goals.
 - Meeting with UNDP and will work with them to increase our presence in UN. This should be one of IFLRY's main goals.
 - Successful seminar with many leaders from around Columbia.
 - On Dec. 7, we will cooperate with member organizations from Netherlands, Sweden, and Venezuela.
 - Important to note that Christian from Peru will apply for a position.



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- Jacob Rasmussen
 - Since Buenos Aires, the most important thing he can report is attending the UN event which had a ten-year review on its youth initiative. Interesting debate, but they concluded that their goals had not been reached even though they moved in the right direction.
 - Youth initiative was linked with Millennium Goals; movement has been slow but people are focused on it.
 - It is our duty to keep efforts on moving ahead with the UN even though they are bureaucratic.
 - Has information on the UN's World Youth Report if anyone wants it.
 - Looked into further optimizing IFLRY's savings. Might be able to save 4,000 Euros.
 - Tried to have dialogues with member organizations and the future of IFLRY. Created a working group in Buenos Aires. Wants to get more people involved in IFLRY; this theme will be reflected in his speech tomorrow.
 - Tried to get funding for participants to go to GA.
- Will listen to Richard Diamond's report tomorrow.
- Emil Kirjas, President of IFLRY
 - Did not finish Bureau Report and is aware that others are critical of that.
 - Dedicated all of his free time to IFLRY in the past six months but that was not enough. Now understands how a past officer had the same problem.
 - When electing IFLRY positions, keep in mind whether they will have the enormous amount of time needed. Also, do not create false expectations.
 - Bureau members have been working together. He tried to assist Bureau members to complete their work.
 - Participated in some of the events, including the ones in Cairo, San Francisco, and Berlin. Also spearheaded leadership organizing in IFLRY.
 - Let's benefit from the presence of the Young Democrats of America and try to connect with them.
 - He is committed to stay a part of the organization, whether in a formal or a non-formal way.

6.) Recommendation on the Membership Issues

- Application for full membership:
 - JLA, Andorra
 - FEL, Belgium
 - YMRF, Bulgaria
- Applications for candidate membership:
 - IPL, Peru
 - LG, Belarus
 - MLY, Moldova
 - YI, Nepal
 - Circulo Liberal, Uruguay

- Applications for observer membership:
 - MLS, Portugal

7.) Applications for a reduced membership fee

- Received one application for reduced membership fee: Finnish Centre Youth.
- FCY spoke about their need for a reduction. Even though they have resources, the fee is quite a lot for international funding. Wants a reduction to 2,380 EUR, a reduction of roughly 50%.
- Member asked for their budget. FCY answered that they have 18 regional organizations; total budget is about 350,000 EUR.
- LDYS says that other organizations have far less in their budgets and do not request a reduction. FCY responded that it is a lot of money and that they currently have a high membership fee that they would like to reduce.
- Member noted that there used to be a reduction for Eastern European countries due to their suffering economy. He wondered if there would be a future reduction like that one.
- LDYS asked in general if the fee for all members is too high, or if it was just too high for their particular organization. FCY responded that with the current fees, they could only attend the most important meetings. They would like to be more active.
- Jacob Rasmussen noted that fees for all members will be discussed in the spring; we are only talking about FCY right now.
- Vote:
 - In favor of reduction for FCY: 1
 - Against reduction for FCY: 22
 - Abstaining: 5

8.) Urgency Resolutions

- Received two urgency resolutions
 - Member from JD Netherlands presents resolution for universal abolishment of torture.
 - Discussed in media, e.g. in Iraq, Guantanamo Bay, and suspected areas of Europe.
 - This resolution should be urgent because torture goes against what we stand for, specifically liberalism and human rights.
 - LDYS asks what changed since the deadline for resolutions passed. JD answered that they learned that the CIA allegedly has prisons in Eastern Europe.
 - Vote:
 - In favor: 23
 - Against: 0
 - Abstaining: 5



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- Allan Witherick from LDYS UK presents resolution of dialogue on the decisions of the Russian Parliament to disallow international NGOs to work there.
 - IFLRY would condemn this action and urge Russian Parliament to vote against it.
 - Vote:
 - In favor: 28
 - Against: 0
 - Abstaining: 0

- 9.) Any other business
 - YLDA and JNC Catalonia claimed to have filed emergency resolutions. Emil responds that the resolutions was in time and therefore do not need to be treated as urgent.

- 10.) Date and place of next meeting
 - Nick of Young Liberals of Canada notes that they would like to host the next EC meeting in Niagara Falls, Canada.
 - Chose June because it is before the major tourist influx. Attractive points include a winery where they may have an event and a seaside location.
 - Vote: in favor by way of applause.

- 11.) Closing
 - Emil thanks participants.