



IFLRY Bureau Reports

Date: Friday, July 16, 2010

From: Bart Woord, IFLRY President

To: Representatives of IFLRY Member Organizations

Subject: Introduction

Dear friends,

Find below the first Bureau reports by the members elected at the recent GA in The Hague. All of the reports are included, except for those by Treasurer Jan van Run and former Vice President Mauricio Lopez, who have not submitted their report.

For a better understanding of the reports, I recommend you to read the Plan of Action first, if you haven't done so already. Both the Plan of Action and the Bureau Reports will be discussed at the upcoming Executive Committee & Extraordinary General Assembly in St. Petersburg.

I believe that, based on what you'll read in the reports, in this first (long) quarter of our term we have made substantial progress on, for example:

- a Plan of Action was written that very clearly points out and distinguishes between the objectives of the Federation and the functions needed to achieve them; this has facilitated a new division of responsibilities within the Bureau which also extends to the creation of Programme Managers and Programme Teams;
- the aim to bring value to our members is illustrated by the successful presence of a 100-person IFLRY delegation at the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen;
- we are gaining a lot of ground with our liberal solidarity initiatives on human rights and democracy, for example through the Cuban Programme Team and the creation of a Liberal Solidarity Week and IFLRY Freedom Award;
- the network of partners that IFLRY gains from through projects, donations and political platforms;

On the other hand, the reports show that improvements are necessary on, among others:

- the possibilities for MOs to genuinely strengthen through the adaptation of best-practices of others;
- the boosting of our financial means in order increase the scope of our activities;
- fixing some items of our communication portfolio, in particular the website.



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1, Whitehall Place, London SW1A 2HD, United Kingdom

Phone: +44 203 239 6840 • Fax: +44 207 100 8159 • office@iflry.org

This Bureau is enormously open for the initiatives of its members and welcomes feedback on any element of the Plan of Action as well as these specific reports. If you are not going to be in St. Petersburg, please feel free to approach me or my colleagues digitally. In the end our main aim is to create a vibrant organization where our members take every opportunity to work with the Bureau for a more free and fair world. Only together we can do it.

Liberal regards,

Bart Woord
IFLRY President

On behalf of the IFLRY Bureau 2009-2011



Bureau Report

Date: Friday, July 16, 2010

From: Bart Woord

To: IFLRY Executive Committee, August 2010

Subject: Bureau Report November 2009 – August 2010, President, Bart Woord

Introduction

Since my election in November I have worked hard to get our organization into a direction that will make it more effective in our mission. I am thankful to my colleagues in the Bureau, our staff at the Office and the Auditors who are with us on this journey and without whom very little which we aim to accomplish would be possible. The same goes for the volunteers who are contributing significant amounts of their time to the position or teams they have been appointed to.

In particular I want to point out the support from Paola Silva, former IFLRY President, and Jelena Spasovic, former IFLRY VP, who have been of great support to me and the Federation at large with their continuing support and activity, despite having already left the Bureau.

Finally, I would like to point out the many sponsors who have made my work possible. All of my trips have been paid by them (or by my own money), allowing me to be as active as I was without burdening the already heavily strained IFLRY finances.

Regarding our work, I am particularly proud of the Plan of Action that we have developed in the first two months of our period and that will be discussed during this Executive Committee (the first ever to be discussed in this fashion). Even though its still not perfect, I believe it provides the necessary structure to the complex challenges that IFLRY is faced with and I hope that it will provide a base for future Plan of Actions. This particularly applies to the division in vertical objectives and horizontal functions, as well as the description of all the different positions and roles, which is also totally new.

More generally, my role in the Bureau as the President consists of a couple of responsibilities. First of all, whereas all Bureau Members are of course elected on individual mandates, I make sure that the Bureau work is fairly divided and that Members coordinate their work among each other. Secondly, there are several specific 'Presidential' responsibilities that I take care of, starting with the planning of the Plan of Action, leading the monthly Bureau meetings (and setting its agendas) and dealing with emergencies. Thirdly, I am directly responsible for the coordination of the three vertical objectives and our organization's strategic expansion. Finally, there are several horizontal functions where I have either kept a role as part of the transition towards a new Bureau or manage a particular responsibility.

Looking back over the past 8 months, I am left with many thoughts of which I will just mention a couple. First of all, it is sad that people are leaving (far) before the end of their Bureau term, even though I think it is good that these issues are dealt with in a constructive way for both parties so that we can quickly replace persons



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who due to circumstances are not able to commit the necessary time to the work. Secondly, it remains a challenge managing a Bureau which lacks in-person meetings and of which some people will at this EC see each other for the first time again since the GA in The Hague. Please keep this in mind when assessing the various Bureau reports. Finally, related to the former, it will be very important to improve our communications and finances 'horizontals' in the next few months in order to provide more value to our members in the future.

Vertical Objectives

I have coordinated the three vertical objectives from the start of writing the Plan of Action, with the Vice Presidents having been assigned to coordinate one or two specific verticals. Much of the time dedicated to these verticals over the past months since the PoA has been focused on starting up initiatives that will bear fruits later during our mandate.

1. Winning Elections and Strengthening Organizations

This vertical is arguably the most important objective to achieve for this Bureau. It is coordinated by Jordi and Mauricio, but Mauricio has not been able to contribute to it which means that it is quite behind schedule. I have myself been engaged in development of proposals for a pool of trainers and/or experts.

The team in charge of the Study Session in Strasbourg in April has provided several useful suggestions for improvements in the preparation and execution of our educational events, which we will soon implement.

I have myself been engaged in giving several trainings to organizations as part of trainings organized by or together with international foundations (Marocco, Belarus). In Singapore I have discussed best practices with our local members.

2. Policy Development and Dissemination

This vertical is coordinated by Naomi and Mirna and is rather wide in scope. So far it has seen two major developments:

- IFLRY has taken an active role on the topic of Climate Change by participating with a large delegation (100) to the Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in December 2009. With our wonderful Danish hosts, our knowledgeable Programme Manager Stephan Korte, and a cohort of enthusiastic and smart participants, I think it was a highly successful project that gave a lot of value to our members. I have spent two weeks in Copenhagen and provided support throughout the event, including the preparatory meetings, the Liberal Networking Event and a special meeting with the former Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin. Subsequently, a Climate Change Team has been formed that will provide a wider base to tackle this topic on from a liberal perspective. A resolution on climate change was presented at the Liberal International Executive Committee and adopted.

- In March, an IFLRY delegation attended the Geneva Summit on Human Rights, Tolerance and Democracy, a two-day event organized by over 20 NGOs worldwide, including IFLRY, which was also the co-secretary of the resolution on Internet Freedom that was drafted for the event. Naomi and I chaired two panels that were focused around the Internet and human rights, bringing a lot of visibility to our organization. Naomi and I also attended several days of the UN Human Rights Council session in March. Subsequently, an IFLRY Briefing was drafted and sent to MOs regarding the future of the UN Human Rights Council. Resolutions on Internet Freedom and the UN HRC were submitted to the Liberal International Executive Committee and adopted.



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3. Liberal Solidarity

Liberal Solidarity is the vertical objective that focuses specifically on supporting young liberals in authoritarian countries. Jordi and Naomi have taken the lead here and I think it is the vertical that has shown most progress.

I have assisted in developing the proposals for the Liberal Solidarity Week and the IFLRY Freedom Award (Committee). I have been particularly involved in the work on Cuba, Singapore, Azerbaijan and Belarus.

Cuba: in the second part of January I traveled to Cuba with Malin Brannkarr (SU) and Stefan van der Esch (JD) in order to provide support to and gather information about the civil resistance movements in Cuba, in particular the Independent Libraries. It made an enormous impression on me to see with my own eyes the difficult circumstances in which the Cuban people live. We were detained twice by the Cuban police as we visited dissidents. Partly because of this experience I have been supporting even more vigorously the work done by Jordi and later Christina regarding IFLRY's Cuba Programme, for example the Cuba Solidarity Day.

Singapore: in December I attended an activists meeting organized by SILC (affiliated with LUF, Sweden) in Sarajevo, where I met with the President of our MO from Singapore, which had been inactive in IFLRY for a long while. Since then, the contact has been strengthened and in April I visited Singapore (partly as part of a Liberal International delegation) to meet with the Singapore Democratic Party and the SDP Youth. An SDP Youth representative attended an IFLRY seminar (in Strasbourg) for the first time in years.

Azerbaijan: we have continued our strong interest in the situation of human rights and democracy in Azerbaijan. First of all, I have taken the lead within the European Youth Forum to ask for a membership review of the Azerbaijani National Youth Council. After a lot of lobbying, with support from Jelena Spasovic (former IFLRY VP), Julia Hesse from Julis and the LYMEC Bureau, we finally managed to get the required ten signatories. A statement released by IFLRY regarding the review was widely featured in Azerbaijani opposition media. Secondly, we have closely followed several developments regarding our member organizations, including the regular detention of activists from DALGA and Musavat Youth. Finally, I added a reference to two young political prisoners in Azerbaijan (Emin Milli and Adnan Hajizade) in the statement by the World Youth Movement for Democracy, which also managed to catch some headlines in Azerbaijan.

Belarus: in July I gave a training in Lithuania for Belarusian youth activists. A call for Belarus Programme Manager was sent out as well, though at the time of writing no nomination has been received.

In April I attended the bi-annual World Movement for Democracy conference in Jakarta, Indonesia. This was a fabulous opportunity to meet with many young and old political activists, academics and politicians. In addition, I took an active role in the development of the World Youth Movement for Democracy, which focuses this year on young political prisoners, and I am still advising them on external relations.

Finally, I attended two rallies in support of the Iran democracy movement, one in The Hague and one in Berlin.

Horizontal Functions

I have been active in all horizontal functions, in varying degrees of responsibility.



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1. Communication

I have been the main person dealing with the use of Facebook and Twitter for our communication, including the promotion of more and more fans (4000+) and followers (400+). I have also started using more extensively the blog function on our webpage, since our website is still partly dysfunctional.

I have also been responsible for most of the back office or administrative work, including the creation of email addresses and user rights on our website.

2. Partnerships

Over the past 8 months, I have built strong relationships with SILC, which resulted in participation at their activist seminar in Sarajevo (December), and trainings in St. Petersburg (February) and Lithuania (July). This has created a lot of offspring projects and contacts for IFLRY.

In addition, I have participated in the Liberal International fact-finding mission to South East Asia (Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia) and in the LI Executive Committee in Berlin. Both occasions offered possibilities to discuss opportunities for mutually benefiting cooperation between IFLRY and LI.

During the Geneva Summit that we organized Naomi and I were also able to built stronger ties with Freedom House representatives who were there, as well as with the LI representative to the Human Rights Council who is based in Geneva.

I have continued working on our ECOSOC application in conjunction with Naomi, providing answers to questions from the ECOSOC NGO committee and gathering support for our application from outside the ECOSOC committee.

The World Movement for Democracy meeting in Indonesia allowed me to engage with the National Democratic Institute and discuss cooperation, for example in terms of supporting international political youth umbrellas. At the same occasion, I was also able to build ties with the International Union of Democratic Youth, the conservative global umbrella. Finally, after a meeting with a representative from the Brookings Institute who works on Cuba, I linked him up with our Cuba Programme Team.

The Liberal Networking Event that IFLRY organized during the COP-15 in Copenhagen was the first of its sort but drew the leaders of the Danish liberal parties, several IFLRY alumni, partner organizations and even a member of parliament from the Canadian Liberal Party.

Finally, I attended the annual International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organizations (ICMYO), which took place in Helsinki, Finland, this year.

3. Finances

On the financial level, I have been providing support to the Treasurer (and the Auditors) in order for them to work as effectively as possible. I have for example provided documents, drafted texts and given feedback on a wide variety of subjects. I have also been drafting and monitoring event budgets.

In order to tackle the challenges on a more instant basis, I initiated (and led) monthly financial meetings where all finance-related issues were discussed.



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Income-wise, I have been successfully fundraising for the IFLRY Executive Committee and Seminar in St. Petersburg. I have also supported Frederik with the fundraising efforts at the LI Executive Committee in Berlin.

4. Events

With regards to the IFLRY events organized over the past months, I am in charge of the overall organization of the events in St. Petersburg. I have also been working on proposals for seminars over the past months, including event budgets and seminar grants.

I was supposed to attend the IFLRY Study Session in Strasbourg in April but due to the volcano ashes from Iceland I got stranded in Malaysia for several days and hence missed the event.

I am also currently leading the preparation of the upcoming GA in Lebanon, together of course with Mirna.

5. Rules, Procedures and Administration

After the General Assembly in The Hague I surveyed the Chairs with regards to potential changes to the Statutes and Rules of Procedure in order to make our processes more professional. Partly on the basis of their input I will propose some ideas for changes to the Standing Committee on Rules at the EC in St. Petersburg. These ideas may subsequently turn into proposals at the end-of-year General Assembly.

Strategic Expansion & Regional Responsibilities

As President I also report on the activities of the Regional Bureau Members appointed to the Bureau from our Regional Member Organizations. At this point these are Dries Holvoet (LYMEC – Europe) and Jan-Argy Tolentino (YLDA – Asia). On the basis of feedback from the previous RBM from Europe, Roger Albanyana I Saigi, I drafted for the first time a text outlining the responsibilities of the RBMs within the IFLRY Bureau, which both accepted. This document includes certain reporting responsibilities, which resulted in several reports sent by each. Due to the time difference, Jan-Argy has not been able to attend any online Bureau Meetings so far, whereas Dries has. Dries has been on a visit to China with the European Youth Forum and reported back on it to the IFLRY Bureau. Jan-Argy provided contact support for my visit to South East Asia.

I coordinate the Strategic Expansion of our Federation and I have hence been increasing our presence in East Asia and the Middle East. Credit should go to Mirna for several initiatives she has undertaken in the Middle East; I have myself only been to Marocco where I have managed to meet with several parties and youth organizations.

On East Asia, my visit to Singapore has boosted our contacts with our local members there. I have also initiated a survey for partners in South Korea and Japan. Karin Brissman from LUF wrote a paper on potential partners in South Korea. Roger Albinyana I Saigi has supported in linking IFLRY up with the Democratic Party in Hong Kong.

Unfortunately, little has happened in Central America, the third region of Strategic Expansion interest.

Calendar

November

- 12-14 The Hague (The Netherlands): General Assembly
- 22 Almelo (The Netherlands): JOVD Congress speech.



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December

- 1** Brussels (Belgium): Meeting of Kosovar young liberals at the Friedrich Naumann Stiftung office; meeting with LYMEC representatives.
- 3-6** Sarajevo (Bosnia-Herzegovina): Participation at the SILC Activist Seminar; meeting with among others local MO MLBiH.
- 7-17** Copenhagen (Denmark): United Nations Climate Change Conference, IFLRY delegation.

January

- 15-30** Cuba: Solidarity Trip to Cuba, meeting dissidents, independent librarians and families of political prisoners.

February

- 12** Amsterdam (Netherlands): Discussion evening on the future of democracy in Latin America, organized by JD (speaker).
- 19-21** St. Petersburg (Russia): Leadership training for Yabloko Youth, supported by SILC.

March

- 7-11** Geneva (Switzerland): 2nd Geneva Summit for Human Rights, Tolerance and Democracy; Meeting of the UN Human Rights Council.

April

- 6-10** Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia: Fact-finding mission Liberal International; meeting with the SDP-Youth in Singapore.
- 11-14** Jakarta (Indonesia): 6th Meeting of the World Movement for Democracy.
- 19-21** [MISSED DUE TO VOLCANO] Strasbourg (France): IFLRY Study Session.
- 23-25** Groningen (Netherlands): JD Congress (speaker).

May

- 15** The Hague (Netherlands): Theme day on North Korea organized by JOVD (speaker).

June

- 3-6** Helsinki (Finland): International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organizations; meeting with the leadership of SU.
- 11-12** Berlin (Germany): Liberal International Executive Committee and IFLRY Fundraising Mixer.
- 24** Frankfurt (Germany): Meeting with Climate Change Programme Manager Stephan Korte.

July

- 3-8** Rabat (Marocco): Training of political youth organizations, organized by NDI; meeting with representatives local (liberal) youth organizations.
- 9-11** Vilnius (Lithuania): Training of democratic youth organizations from Belarus, organized by SILC.
- 26-1** Accra (Ghana)

August

- 6-8** St. Petersburg (Russia): IFLRY Executive Committee and Extraordinary General Assembly.



Bureau Report

Date: Friday, July 16, 2010

From: Frederik Ferié, Secretary General

To: IFLRY Executive Committee, August 2010

Subject: Bureau Report November 2009 – August 2010,
Secretary General, Frederik Ferié

Introduction

Dear friends and supporters of IFLRY,

Taking over a new position is not an easy step. It comprises looking both backwards and forwards. On the one hand, it is necessary to analyze the role of your new position in the organizational framework so far, while, on the other hand, it is important to strategize how you want it to develop. Furthermore, it is important to make sure that the change in position is not merely a change in titles, but also a change in perspective and approach to work. This was also true for my change from Vice President to Secretary General of IFLRY.

I decided to run for Secretary General, because I wanted to take a leading role in the IFLRY Bureau. I wanted to be part of the core group of President, Secretary General and Treasurer that actively takes charge in determining the strategy and tactics of our Federation. Trying to succeed in this, the last eight months have been very challenging, but also very rewarding. On the next few pages I will give you a detailed account on my role, my tasks and my delivered accomplishments in the IFLRY Bureau.

Both before and after our election as President and Secretary General, Bart and I had a number of long conversations about how we want IFLRY and the Bureau to develop. We both have been part of the IFLRY leadership for more than four years now and have accumulated quite an amount of impressions and learnings out of positive as well as negative experiences.

Bart came up with the idea of re-organizing the work of the bureau in vertical as well as horizontal objectives. Although I was initially not as enthusiastic about this new approach as he was, I have to say that I have recognized the improvement that the re-structuring has brought in almost every single field within my responsibilities.

Shortly after the General Assembly in The Hague we started the process of drafting a strategy for IFLRY for the next two years that resulted in the Plan of Action that we will be happy to discuss with you in St. Petersburg. In this project I took charge of facilitating the processes that lead to the drafting of the Horizontal Functions and their goals, together with the Vice Presidents and the Treasurer, as much of the goals also included a financial component. These Horizontal Functions, such as Communications, Events, Partnerships and Administration, are essential for the survival and the success of the organization - they enable the federation to reach the Vertical Goals for which the President and the Vice Presidents are responsible. I was also responsible for setting with each of the Bureau Members to which of our Horizontal Functions they will contribute.



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In the division of work within the IFLRY Bureau the role of the Secretary General incorporates the management of IFLRY's staff and the supervision of the IFLRY headquarters in London. Furthermore, it includes the oversight of the Horizontal Functions, with the exception of finances, which are the realm of the Treasurer. The IFLRY Secretary General is also the Deputy President of the Federation and during our tenure I have already had the pleasure and duty to fill in for our President Bart.

However, it is important not only to concentrate on one's own role, but also to realize that the crucial entity of the IFLRY Bureau is not the individual, but the team. Hence, I am proud to be working with so many committed colleagues in a working team environment. This does not mean, that our work remains without disagreeing with each other, but we have found ways and methods how to overcome obstacles together as a team.

Overall, one of the principle guidelines of our work right now is due financial diligence and stability. We unfortunately do not have the possibilities right now to put all of our plans into action right now - but we are working on it.

Generally, it is all our aim to leave the Federation in a better place than it was when we took over. From our current point of view this is a long way, but we have already made some crucial steps.

I would like to thank a few people without whom the start of the work of the new IFLRY Bureau would not have been possible:

- *Sarah:* Without Sarah's help it would literally been impossible for me to take over as Secretary General as she has not only been the heart and soul of the IFLRY headquarters for almost my entire time as Vice President, but also played a crucial role in the recruitment of our new Executive Director Mane and the transfer of work. I continue to be amazed by Sarah's unceasing commitment even after she has left the office for her new job.
- *Jan and Mauricio:* For some of you it might look strange that two IFLRY Bureau Members are quitting their positions only after a quarter of their tenure. However, for us, the IFLRY Bureau, and me personally this is proof of what all of us committed to do when you elected us in The Hague: being open and honest to ourselves and to you. Both Jan and Mauricio have been committed to their work from day one on the job. Still, none of us can plan ahead the entire two-year tenure and all of us have private and professional lives that are essential for our being able to contribute to the IFLRY Bureau. When Jan and Mauricio's personal situations significantly changed in a way that made it impossible for them to continue their work with the commitment required for our work, they stood up to the challenge and stepped down from their positions so someone else can take over. I admire them for that decision. Too many times in the history of IFLRY less than half of the Bureau members were still working 100 % at the end of the two-year tenure. Too many individuals decided to take the easy way and simply stopped to deliver any results, ignoring the requests from their colleagues who had to take over their tasks as well, simply dumping their work on them. Jan and Mauricio decided not to take the same easy way and I salute them for that.
- *Elin:* Special thanks also go to our intern Elin who I had the pleasure to work with for the last six months and whom you all will meet in St. Petersburg. Elin is probably the only intern IFLRY ever had that managed the office on her own for almost two months when Mane could not start due to visa issues. Elin did a tremendously good job.



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Before elaborating below how I contributed myself to the work of IFLRY in the individual horizontal functions, please allow me a brief personal note: since graduating from university in fall 2008 I have, as some of you know, started a PhD in political marketing, while at the same time working as a freelancing political strategy consultant and trainer to finance my studies. In March, I was offered a permanent position and since April I have been working as the foreign affairs advisor of the chairwoman of the parliamentary group of FDP in the German Bundestag. While it is at times more than challenging to handle three jobs (PhD, IFLRY and gainful employment) at the same time I have found that many times there are extremely positive synergies. Thus, although I will unfortunately not be able to travel as extensively as I did before, I hope that my utility for IFLRY even increases.

Horizontal Functions

As Secretary General I am supervising all the Horizontal Functions and the fulfilling of their goals. In several cases I am also personally responsible for individual goals and functions, while others are in the responsibility of other Bureau Members.

1. Communication

Newsletter: Right from the start I took over the coordination of the monthly newsletter from Bart. I have changed both the publication date as well as the compilation mode of the newsletter. Since January, every bureau meeting includes a brainstorming session for the newsletter and the articles to be contributed by the individual bureau members are set.

Communication Strategy: Together with Jordi and Naomi I have been working on a comprehensive communication strategy for IFLRY that not only consider all of our communication tools, but also enables individual Bureau members to take a more active role in communicating with MOs and other stakeholders. It also includes the restoration of our most important communication tool - our website. We have gotten quite some support from several members of our MOs who offered their help, but so far the problems could not be fixed. Unfortunately, we also do not have the funds right now that would allow a completely new approach to our website.

2. Partnerships

I have continued to develop our most important strategic partnerships.

Friedrich-Naumann-Foundation: First and foremost, I have had the opportunity to have a number of meetings with future and current Regional Directors and Project Directors of the Friedrich-Naumann-Foundation for Liberty from several regions around the world. One of the results that I achieved is Bart's sponsored invitation to the upcoming Asian Liberal Network's meeting in Accra, Ghana as well as the consecutive training that Bart, Naomi and I will give for several liberal Ghanaian Members of Parliament as well as for our Ghanaian MO NPP-Y.

Additionally, after I had a meeting with FNF's Director for International Programs in Germany in January, the Foundation offered IFLRY to nominate delegates for their prestigious International Academy for Leadership seminars that are aimed at liberal decision makers, fully sponsored and take place up to 12 times every year in various locations around Germany. IFLRY's role here will be to identify young liberal leaders in all those countries that the Foundation is not represented in with an own office.



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Moreover, I represented IFLRY at the Eastern Partnership Conference that the Foundation organized in Berlin in late February. I had drafted a policy paper on the topic of contacts between people, that was discussed there and incorporated into the final paper of the conference.

Liberal International: At the Berlin EC of LI, IFLRY, for the first time ever, was represented not only with a delegation, but also with its own event. I organized the “IFLRY Fundraising Mixer” for all LI delegates as well as for local liberals as a chance to meet and discuss in a relaxed atmosphere outside of the regular LI framework, but being part of the official event program.

Foundation for Swedish Culture in Finland: Our Internship project with the Foundation for Swedish Culture has been an immense success so far. We have just welcomed our new intern for the second part of the year. The EDs and I have maintained an ongoing communication about the program with the Foundation and hope that it will be a lasting success, also for the next years.

ECOSOC: IFLRY’s application at the UN ECOSOC has been considerably delayed and impeded by some governments that do not want us to enter this UN body. So far we have not been able to counter their standing in the selection committee. To achieve a game-changer I have achieved a meeting with the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs UN Department, together with the German Human Rights Ombudsman, that will probably take place in August. The Ombudsman has assured us his support so that we will at least be able to analyze how we can tackle the opposition.

3. Finances

Friends of IFLRY / Fundraising: Although the finances are the primary responsibility of the Treasurer it is important for IFLRY as a whole that we recognize our duty as Bureau Members to improve the financial situation of the Federation. Hence, I planned the aforementioned IFLRY event at the LI EC as a fundraising event. LI delegates were asked to contribute a reasonable donation at the event and Bart, who was also present, did an excellent job in approaching delegates to become Friends of IFLRY. We have learned a lot of lessons from this first fundraiser, but the most important is that we will continue organizing similar events as they not only increase our visibility but also deliver tangible financial results.

4. Events

EC / EGA: I was heavily involved in the decision making process on where to have the next Executive Committee meeting. As part of this I was responsible for checking the feasibility of having the events in Western Africa. In the immediate preparation for the EC in St. Petersburg I am responsible for the preparation of the EC agenda and its items, including the membership applications, which I am coordinating together with Thomas, the chair of our Statutory Committee for Membership.

GA: I have taken responsibilities in the initial preparatory steps of the next GA in November in Beirut. However, the majority of the work there is yet to commence.

Other events: Details about the Ghana seminar series as well as the Fundraising event are already given above.

5. Rules, Procedures and Administration

One of the most time consuming steps in the first months of my tenure has been the recruitment of a new Executive Director for IFLRY. I managed the entire process that including call, several rounds of screening,



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interviews and signing and am very happy that with Mane we found an extremely qualified and enthusiastic new ED. A final challenge that cost me more nerves than the hiring was getting Mane's visa and work permit for the UK. Against all odds though, we finally made it and are happy to introduce Mane to you in St. Petersburg.

In my position as Secretary General I am naturally much more involved in the office processes at the IFLRY headquarters than I have been before, especially now during the ED-transition. As mentioned above I am also closely involved in the procedural and statutory procedures at the EC.

Strategic Expansion & Regional Responsibilities

Together with Mirna, I am in charge of IFLRY's strategic expansion in the Middle East. While traveling to Jordan and Lebanon for work in December I had the chance to meet with all of our partners. Mirna, for her part, has also done a great deal of communicating and traveling so that we are hoping to reach our goals in the Middle East until the end of our tenure. A first result is an application for Candidate Membership from Morocco that you will be presented with at the EC.

In my other region of responsibility, North America, IFLRY has gained some more presence due to our participation in the COP 15. We hope to be able to re-initiate our cooperation projects with our North American MOs based on the contacts made there.

Calendar

December

7 -14 Amman, Jordan and Beirut/Broummana, Lebanon: work project enabling me to meet with the leadership of several liberal organizations in Jordan as well as of our Full Member Future Youth and Candidate Member National Liberal Party Youth in Lebanon (with Mirna participating in the meetings in Lebanon).

January

12 Berlin, Germany: Meeting with Ms. Birgit Lamm, Director for International Programs and Conferences in Germany, Friedrich-Naumann-Foundation for Liberty, on IFLRY's role regarding FNF's International Academy for Leadership.

February

27 - 28 Berlin, Germany: FNF/ALDE-PACE/ELDR Conference on the Eastern European Partnership: contribution of a paper on the field of "Contact between People", facilitation on the working group on that topic.

March

26 Berlin, Germany: Meeting with a delegation of liberal Members of Parliament from NPP Ghana and FNF Resident Representative for Ghana and Senegal Mr. Werner Nowak; presentation on IFLRY and discussion session on the role of party youth wings in politics.

April

30 - 1 (May) Sinaia, Romania: LYMEC Congress; addressed Congress on behalf of IFLRY.

June

11 - 12 Berlin, Germany: Liberal International Executive Committee; organized IFLRY Fundraising Mixer.



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Phone: +44 203 239 6840 • Fax: +44 207 100 8159 • office@iflry.org

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July

28 - 2 (August) Accra and Kumasi, Ghana: conducting training seminars for liberal Members of Parliament and NPP-Youth activists.

I am looking forward to seeing you all in St. Petersburg. As always, if you have any questions or suggestions regarding my report or my work as Secretary General, please do not hesitate to talk to me at the EC or contact me anytime before or after (frederik@iflry.org, +49 177 6147475).

Yours,



Bureau Report

Date:	vrijdag 16 de juli de 2010
From:	Jordi Villanueva i Calvet. Vilanova i la Geltrú, Catalunya.
To:	IFLRY Executive Committee, August 2010

Subject: Bureau Report November 2009 – August 2010, Jordi Villanueva, Vice President

Dear friends,

I am honored to present to you my first Bureau report of this mandate. It has been nine months since we met in Den Haag, The Netherlands, so this report will be a large one due that I have many things to explain you.

But before I start detailing you these things it is my obligation, and also something that make me feel very proud, to say thank you to those people that helped me and worked with me these last months. First to Christina Bach from RU'94, the person who is now leading the Cuba team. It was a pleasure for me to work there but my new responsibilities made that I didn't have time enough for it and there is nothing better to find someone who is willing to work in this project with a lot of energy. Thanks Christina and thanks to all the Cuba team, you are doing a great job.

I also would like to thank personally to those people and Member Organizations who were involved in the "Que Pasa?!" campaign about the jailed Cuban dissidents: JD (Erik van der Meij), JOVD (Sandra Reynaers), Young Liberals of B&H (Enida Hrbat), Young Republicans (Katie Lebanidze), LVSV (Bruno Teirlynck), LUF (Mexhide Spahija), Youth Yabloko (Ksenia Vakhrusheva), Norges Unge Venstre (Naomi 市原 Røkkum), SU (Lena Höglund), RU'94 (Christina Bach).

I want to say thanks to Jan and Mauricio too. When we got elected in November all of us were very happy and proud of it but we never know what life is going to give us the next day. I'm sorry that they have to leave. It was always very easy to contact Jan and get the information you were searching from him. And to Mauricio, my partner in vertical 1 and a person who despite the big time difference had always a word to help you and give a different point of view of what Europe and are used to. Thanks a lot.

And of course to my bureau colleagues, that were always there to answer a mail even at 3 am or during the celebration of new years night at different GMT but always happy to help you in any case. For their patience, friendship, warnings and recommendations that made difficult moments easier ones.

Thank you all very much,

Jordi



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Vertical Objectives

These are the main objectives from our organization and are the direct paths to satisfying the interests to our members. Within each of these objectives the Bureau is committing itself to achieving various goals with the organization.

With Mauricio in vertical 1 (Winning Elections and Strengthening Organizations) and with Naomi in vertical 3 (Liberal Solidarity) we first wrote the Plan of Action we sent you some months before and now we are developing each one of these goals. Sometimes we find difficulties, and our reduced budget make us think twice or more on how to proceed and where to find funding for it. But despite these little troubles we are doing our job the best that we can and we have the strong believe we are going to fulfill our goals.

1. Winning Elections and Strengthening Organizations

The first thing we understood that was necessary to work this objective was to have a good communication channel. With Mauricio we agreed that without having a webpage in optimal conditions a lot of our work won't arrive to many people. As this problem remains we changed to Facebook and Twitter as our first communication tools for our MO. Why this will of communication? As you can read we wanted to made a clearing house mechanism where MO could regularly exchange knowledge and best-practices in an effective, decentralized and flexible way. We set the deadline for this first goal, and to be fully operative on June 2010. We are working on it, and as soon the webpage will be operative again this will be one of our firsts targets.

The second target we wanted to achieve was to create a pool of trainers. To gather and mobilize experts and trainers from MOs who have particular skills and experiences, which can be used in support of MOs, for example through seminars or trainings, we said in our PoA. I have to recognize that this issue is something that really concern me as I don't find the specific people I look for in every subject. As we want to make it very professional it might require external people and at the same time internal one. I'm trying to fix a database that helps us finding the profile we want and can help you more. By the moment we understand that the actual bureau members and former ones are the first front line to help you in any doubt until this database is finished.

The third target was to develop training modules and materials on selected topics and themes for the next two years. Thanks to partner organizations we receive materials and DVDs related to our specific programmes. FH is helping us with the Cuba team and also our MO IPL from Peru provided us with their DVD "Cuba y los Elefantes".

The fourth topic we wanted to set up was a protected online space, where MOs can retrieve confidential information, materials, election programmes. As said before, this is something that can only be done once the new webpage will be working.

The last and maybe one of the most ambitious points was to organize specially tailored election support and observer programmes. These was one of the pints my colleague Mauricio decided to invest more of his time in IFLRY as he said many time that IFLRY didn't do much in the past for Latin America countries for elections. Since his resign this target goes back to me and I'll start after this summer a new strategy to develop it. The first move will consist in contacting all MO to get an approximate idea of when elections are going to take place.



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Liberal Solidarity

The Liberal Solidarity target it is maybe one of the easiest things to define but at the same time one of the most difficult to do. We want to do awareness raising on liberty, human rights, democracy and free market. On the paper it is very easy but when comes to do it you have to stop running and go step by step again like if you are learning to walk again.

Our first priority was to organize an IFLRY Liberal Solidarity Week. The IFLRY LSW is a project where countries and MOs in democracies want to show their support to those who fight for freedom, human rights and democracy, while at the the same time we want to spread liberal thoughts and visions to help developing a better world. IFLRY, as an international federation, has member organization all around the world but not all of them live in democracies where freedom of speech, free market and democracy itself are fundamentals rights. Some of these countries such as Cuba, Singapore or Azerbaijan have been targeted by us as prior objectives to fight for.

We set the deadline for 28 February 2010, where we will have decided when this solidarity date week is going to take place and our will is to have at least 15 MOs participating in the first IFLRY Liberal Solidarity Week activities relating to the chosen topic. The final date chosen is the third week of September (20 to 26 of September) and said before our three main targets are Cuba, Singapore and Azerbaijan where we contacted local members and started to work with. At the moment only three MO have answered to us.

Second target was to set up an IFLRY Freedom Award for young liberals having done exceptional work in the promotion of freedom and democracy in authoritarian country/ies. As member of vertical 3 I worked on this issue when writing the PoA but I have to recognize that is my colleague Naomi who is leading this task and I support her with some ideas.

The third target was to set up or continue several Liberal Solidarity programmes on authoritarian countries, in the past I was leading the Cuba team but since March it is Christina Bach who is doing it. I am proud to say that the Cuba team and all these programmes are working very well. The Cuba team is relaunching again the possibility to have an sponsored trip to the island due to the job done and the good job they are doing now.

This programme is under a new leader and it's time to move forward for a new one.

Horizontal Functions

As Vice President I was more in charge of vertical objectives than horizontal ones, but due to the develop of the vertical ones I got involved in too.

1. Communication

A communication group to do a communication strategy to solve this rare situation we have with the webpage and our communication channels was created. We have been working on it but at the moment it is a simple draft document that needs more work.



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2. Partnerships

Thanks to my work in the Cuba team I had to opportunity to work with FH who helped us doing the Que Pasa?! campaign giving us the funding to print and sent the letter to MPs and MEPs. I also had the chance to work with SILC in the same project.

3. Events

I am member of the Seminar team in St. Petersburg under Jelena's leadership.

Strategic Expansion & Regional Responsibilities

I am in charge of Europe and Latin America. I had the chance to talk with many MO during the LYMEC congress in Romania and have an update of their job and at the same time update and give them information of the things and projects we are doing. I have exchanged many mails with IO and members of the MOs I'm in charge.

With Latin America the situation is different. I shared this responsibility with Mauricio but now I'm doing it alone. I'm having a lot of contact with JD Brazil and with IPL Peru, and thanks to Paola I'm updating our database of contacts for Latin America to start a new relationship with the continent.

Regarding to regional responsibilities, I attended the EULAC (UE and Latin America Committee) in Madrid, Spain during last May. There I had the opportunity, with Mauricio and Paola (our former President), to met a lot of Latin America representatives and fight strongly to defend liberals valors in the final resolution against the socialist and communist youth movements.

Calendar

November 2009

12-14 The Hague (The Netherlands): General Assembly

May 2010

30 April-2 May Sinaia (Romania): LYMEC Congress .

May 2010

6-9 Madrid (Spain): EULAC meeting.

August 2010

1-8 St Petersburg (Russian Federation): IFLRY seminar, EC and EGA.



Bureau Report

Date: Friday, July 16, 2010

From: Mirna Mneimneh

To: IFLRY Executive Committee, August 2010

Subject: Bureau Report November 2009 – August 2010, Vice President, Mirna Mneimneh

Introduction

As the Vice President of IFLRY, my responsibilities include strengthening the core of our Federation's work and serving to directly impact on the interests of our member organizations and our Federation at large. As such, I am very involved in policy development and dissemination, as per vertical 2 of IFLRY's Plan of Action (PoA).

On regional and international perspectives, my role entailed creating awareness about IFLRY in MENA region, namely Morocco, Egypt and Jordan. Bahrain and Iraq are next on the list. The local community was also targeted in order to strengthen the public awareness towards IFLRY and its objectives.

On a personal note, I fully extend my appreciation and gratitude to member organizations, their representatives and bureau members who never failed to extend any support. Thank you again!

Vertical Objectives

The main objective that I am focusing on is Policy Development and Dissemination. Work has already started with fellow colleagues (Naomi in particular) over the past 6 months. More progress and the realization of the objective will be felt over the coming 18 months.

Since plenty of people are willing to risk their lives fighting towards the liberty, our main intent within the Policy Development and Dissemination objective is to help them by training and supporting liberals to overthrow the autocratic regime. Our goal must be to train insurgents in Liberalism (keys demands of liberalism; the role of law, individual rights, education, active citizenship, protection of minority rights, free press, private property, freedom of religion, ...

Briefings are produced periodically; our next briefing will be on WTO. Moreover, different informative programs are being run. At the moment we are contemplating a program on 'freedom of expression'. A request for recruiting a program manager will be out soon.

Horizontal Functions

I am currently in charge of organizing the upcoming General Assembly in Lebanon in November 2010. No further responsibilities for me exist at the moment since no participation in any of related topics on that front was made during the last Bureau meetings.



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Strategic Expansion & Regional Responsibilities

My role entails overlooking any existing or potential expansionary activities in MENA. As such, actual visits were made to Morocco and Egypt in order to meet leaders of liberal parties in the said countries and discuss cooperation plans in addition to attracting them to become members of IFLRY.

To that end, seminars are planned to be held as follows:

- A seminar on 'Palestinian rights under international law: Liberal position vis-a - vis the civil rights of Palestinians Islamization or secularization of the Palestinian cause' will be held in Jordan; however, FNF is currently considering any barriers whether logistical or political. IFLRY is concerned with this conflict simply because it is a question of justice and human rights
- Making such a seminar is to cut through Islamists and to rationalize the political discourse

A seminar on 'Progress of Democracy in the Arab World: challenges and solutions' to take place in Morocco is also scheduled on our upcoming calendar. IFLRY vision on the progress of democracy in the Arab World .Certification process for the political reality in the Arab World.

The Network of Arab Liberal (NAL), which has many member liberal organizations from the Arab world, suggested our presence on their Executive Committee.

Calendar

March Visit to Egypt

July Visit to Morocco



Bureau Report

Date: Friday, July 16, 2010

From: Naomi Ichihara Røkkum

To: IFLRY Executive Committee, August 2010

Subject: Bureau Report November 2009 – August 2010, Vice President Naomi Ichihara Røkkum

Introduction

I am honoured to present my first Bureau report to communicate with you about my work within the Bureau in the months after GA in The Hague. This should not just be a report, but also a starting point for discussion on how the Bureau, including myself, should proceed with our efforts to meet the wishes of the MOs and our common liberal goals.

The IFLRY Bureau kicked off with structuring our work in the Plan of Action (PoA). I contributed to each element though, in line with my election campaign, my focus areas within the PoA are international decision making processes, knowledge sharing, and promotion of human rights and democracy. I have therefore committed myself to work particularly on Vertical Objective: “Policy Development and Dissemination” and “Liberal Solidarity”, in addition to the Communication Strategy under the Horizontal Objective. Networking with current/potential partners/funders have also been a part of the work in the last months.

Before going in detail, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Programme Managers Stephan Korte (Climate Change), Christina Bach Harboe (Cuba), Karin Brissman Wigren (Belarus), and also Ben Burgers for his contribution to the IFLRY Briefing.

Vertical Objectives

Policy Development and Dissemination

The first item under the Vertical Objective: Policy Development and Dissemination was to develop briefings, fact sheets and press releases on current or ongoing issues for MOs to make use of in their own domestic contexts. The first briefing was developed after the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHCR) session in Geneva, March 2010, that Bart and I attended. Ben Burgers (JD), who took part in the Geneva Summit that went parallel to the UNHCR meeting, contributed greatly in making of the first briefing on UNHCR. We received positive feedback from some MOs about the first briefing but I would also appreciate any constructive feedback to this new concept in IFLRY’s work – this in order to the briefings can improve so that MOs can benefit from this initiative.

While Mirna is working on the second briefing on WTO/Free trade, I am now preparing the following briefing that focuses on arms trade, as the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty has its first session in July 2010.



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The second item under this sub-objective was to develop theme-specific Programmes to ensure cohesion in IFLRY's various political activities; This includes the integration of these themes into our events, our activity in international platforms, and in our strategic expansion related work. Amongst the selected themes expressed in PoA, I have worked on 2a) climate change and 2c) migration. This has been executed through the ongoing Climate Change Programme and through the introductory work related to the seminar on migration that is under development (as elaborated later).

A third sub-objective under Policy Development and Dissemination was to set up a permanent and comprehensive presence in international political and diplomatic platforms. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change's (UNFCCC) 15th Conference of Parties (COP15) in December was the first UN meeting with an own IFLRY delegation present, and was an educational experience for IFLRY (the MO participants, Bart, Stephan and I that took part). This will certainly contribute to the further development of the topic within IFLRY and beyond. Furthermore, it proved to be a superb opportunity for MOs to promote their policies through lobbying and media.

In January/February 2010 the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) had its NGO Committee meeting where I followed up on IFLRY's application for Consultative Status that has been pending since 2008. I discussed with staff from the UN Secretariat, and different national and NGO delegations in order to research the grounds for an acceptance. This effort is still ongoing, however, without any budget it will be hard to have a Bureau member present who can follow the process and contribute to the lobbying needed.

A third aim laid out under this sub-objective was to attend the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) which Bart and I did as a part of the Liberal International delegation. This gave us an opportunity to understand UNHRC's work from within, meet with NGO representatives and get inputs for IFLRY's Human Rights related work, particularly for the briefing and the Vertical Objective: Liberal Solidarity.

Liberal Solidarity

One of the sub-objectives that I have worked on under the Vertical Objective: Liberal Solidarity was to set up an IFLRY Freedom Award (IFA) for young liberals having done exceptional work in the promotion of freedom and democracy in authoritarian country/ies. At the moment the IFA Committee is being constituted with prominent persons who will decide the winner. The call for nominees will come soon, and I look forward to see many nominations as it will hopefully be a new tradition for IFLRY and an excellent opportunity for people who work with liberal solidarity to promote their cause.

Another element under Liberal Solidarity is the Programmes on authoritarian countries. Karin Brissman Wigren has done a great deal to start the Belarus Programme, and the call for a new Belarus Programme Manager 2010/11 has been sent out. It is an important term to gather liberal effort globally as there will be Presidential elections in the winter, and we can expect some actions related to this. There have not been any applications for this yet so please contact me if you/anyone you know could be interested.



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Jordi is the Bureau Member responsible for the Cuba Programme, while I have together with him and Bart followed the work of the Cuba Programme Team (CPT), taken part in the training and discussed with our partners about IFLRY's efforts.

Horizontal Functions

Communication

Frederik has led the work on the Communication Strategy, and together with Jordi, we have started to look into the different issues facing IFLRY's communication. I have particularly looked into how to utilize the social media tools such as Facebook, YouTube, LinkedIn, and Twitter. Nevertheless, we agree that the most urgent matter at hand is getting the webpage running.

Partnerships

Through the Geneva Summit, Oslo Freedom Forum, when in New York and at other occasions I have worked to expand IFLRY's network and also reaffirmed partners we have worked with before. The 'external' IFLRY activities have certainly been important arenas to prove to current and potential partners that IFLRY is a serious organisation worth cooperating with.

Events

In addition to the aforementioned Geneva Summit that I contributed to, which the participation was furthermore open for MO representatives, I have also worked on developing two other events. In cooperation with Climate Change Programme Manager Stephan, Bart and I have worked on preparing a seminar on sustainability that will either be organised in Oslo or Frankfurt depending on the funds we can access. Another seminar that is under development is a seminar about international migration that I drafted and suggested to the Bureau. The topic of migration is also linked to one of the goals laid out under Vertical Objective 2: Policy Development and Dissemination.

Strategic Expansion & Regional Responsibilities

On the Strategic Expansion/Regional Responsibilities I have been assigned South and East Asia, Oceania, and Post-Soviet Union. Karin (LUF) has contributed to look for potential partners in South Korea, where she is working at the moment, and I have briefly started looking into potential partners in Japan. I have additionally been in touch with youth from Venezuela and Kosovo to discuss potential cooperation.

Calendar

November

12-14 The Hague (The Netherlands): General Assembly



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December

7-18 Copenhagen (Denmark): UNFCCC's 15th Conference of the Parties (COP15); contribute to the coordination of IFLRY delegation's effort.

January

25-4 New York (USA): UN's Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) NGO Committee meeting; promoting IFLRY's application for Consultative Status, and meetings with national delegations and other NGO representatives.

February

5 New York (USA): meeting with United Nations Alliance of Civilization (UNAOC); discuss IFLRY/UNAOC relations and how we can benefit from each other.

March

8-9 Geneva (Switzerland) : Geneva Summit for Human Rights and Democracy; chairing a session and meet with current and potential partners.

8-11 Geneva (Switzerland) : United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)

April

27-29 Oslo (Norway) : Oslo Freedom Forum; meeting with current and potential partners

29 Oslo (Norway) : meeting with Venezuelan Student Movement; discuss potential cooperation.

30-2 Sinaia (Romania) : LYMEC Congress

July

3-10 Pristina and Mitrovica (Kosovo): Meeting with young representatives from Aleanca Kosova e Re (AKR), representatives from UNDP, the Norwegian embassy, and Kosovar and Serbian NGOs; the meetings focused on the situation in Kosovo, and how young liberals can operate in this political environment and furthermore on an international level.

14-18 Konjic (Bosnia and Herzegovina) : Mladi Liberali BiH Summer Camp about "Security as Element of Development".

27 – 3 Accra and Kumasi (Ghana) : training together with Bart and Frederik in cooperation with Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FNF) for G11 representatives of NPP and the NPP Youth wing.

August

6-8 St. Petersburg (Russia) : EC and EGA