

Mediterranean Network Meeting

Malmo - 16th October 2009

Present:

Evi Theopemptou	Cyprus
Susanne Rieger	Spain / Catalonia
Claudia Madeira	Portugal
Ermin Skoric	Sweden
Ralph Cessar	Malta
Yiannis Tsironis	Greece
Florent Marcellesi	Spain
Ahmet Atil Asici	Turkey
Lala Manjola	Albania
Catherine Greze	France
Stephene Sitbon	France
Melina Menelaou	Cyprus
Arnold Cassola	Malta
Harry Vassallo	Malta
Olga Kikou	Greece
Didier Rod	France
Atana Gibic	Croatia
Magda Aelvoet	Belgium
Anna Baumann	Sweden
Ulasta Toth	Croatia
Ostrifate Manuela	Italy

The participation in the Mediterranean Network was much bigger than previous meetings and there was a great interest in sharing experiences from the European Elections as well as in redefining the benefits from the Med Net meetings.

The agenda included three subjects: (a) the reporting from each country, (b) the planning of the next Med Net Meeting and (c) the upgrading of the purpose of the Med Net Meetings.

(a) Country Reporting

France

The French Greens are pleased with the European Elections Results and especially with the fact that the dynamic continuous after the elections and recently in some local elections the Greens have achieved up to 15-20% of the votes. One of the reasons of their success is the fact that they were not 'anti" but "pro" – the issues presented which was obviously a positive approach. Also the subjects of the campaign were enriched with economic and social issues such as concrete proposals for unemployment, the financial crisis and this resulted in gaining votes from workers.

Greece

Greece had the European Elections in May as well as national Elections in October. The Greek Greens gained 3.5% and 1 MEP in the Euroelections and 2.5% in the National Elections which constituted a 150% increase from previous years. Also there was a high percentage within young people – 7% - and unemployed people – 6% -. The Greek Greens

believe that the years to follow might be more difficult since the governing socialist party supports in theory the green ideas. Now it is the time to organize the party better and find the appropriate human and financial resources. New voters have trusted their hopes in the Greek Green Party because of its relations with the European Green party and also due to the fact that it is a non-corrupted party. This success has also opened the road to equal time in TV panels etc.

Spain

The Catalanian Greens in coalition with the left party received 6.8% in the European Elections and elected 1 MEP and 3.3% in the National Elections. However the socialist are losing ground and this will negatively affect the coalition results in the future. Local elections will take place in 2011. On January 1st 2010, Spain will take the EU Presidency and many events are being organized.

In the rest of Spain the Green List achieved only 0.56% and did not elect any MEPs. Now there is a movement to regenerate and reconstruct the Green party in Spain, including all Green parties and Green NGOs. The EGP will support this effort.

Portugal

During 2009 in Portugal there were three elections: The European elections – 10,6% of the votes but no MEP, the Nations Elections when 2 MPs were elected and the local elections.

Malta

The results of the European Elections were very disappointing. The issue of immigration was the main campaign issue and the two main parties were fighting as to who was the most harsh on immigrants. The policy of the Maltese Greens was considered too soft on immigration. Additionally there was a low turnout of just 79% which also worked against the Green prospective voters. The government in Malta is corrupted after 20 years in power. Now the Maltese Greens will have internal elections in 2 weeks time and will also have to solve their serious financial problems.

FYROM

The Greens in FYROM have 1 MP elected who also chairs the parliamentary committee on gender issues, which is one of the most important issues of the Greens. The Greens also have 1 Deputy Minister for the Environment, 1 Mayor and 19 Council Members. The main topics of the FYROM Greens apart from the environmental issues are social issues such as human rights, health, harassment at work, media and energy as well as the Green Constitution of Municipalities.

Turkey

The National elections were held last March but the Greens could not participate. The Greens supported however 6 independent candidates but with no success. The Turkish Greens believe that the recent positions of the government of Turkey on the Kurdish and Armenia issues is a good step forward.

Italy

Following the recent results in Italy the Greens believe that the situation in Italy is very bad, with a low democracy level. Today there is no Green representation in the government. The minimum requirement to enter the parliament is 4%, which is difficult to achieve. Also with no parliamentary participation there is also no media representation. Following recent internal elections the Italian Greens now have a new president – Angelo Bonelli.

Albania

The Albanian Greens participated in coalition in the National Elections but the results were not satisfactory. In Albania there is a lot of corruption, crime and poverty. Also the election law does not favour small parties. In 2011 the local elections will take place and the Albanian Greens are more hopeful.

Croatia

Local elections took place in May 2009. The Green Party has grown and now there are 29 council members, which is a big growth from before. Also the Green party is now establishing new branches within the country.

Cyprus

In the European Elections the Greens gained 1,5% which was double the result of the previous European Elections. However it was not enough to elect an MEP since Cyprus has only 6 MEPs and thus requires more than 10% to elect one. During the campaign there was an effort to explain "green jobs" which was not well understood by the people, given the fact that the financial crisis had not hit Cyprus a lot back in May 2009.

(b) Next Med Meeting

It is planned to take place in Antalia in Turkey in December 2009, however the budget is not adequate to support this event. Efforts have been made to find additional funding but with no success up to now. Further info as to whether the Med Net meeting will take place or be postponed will be given shortly.

(c) Upgrading of the Med Net Meetings

The members of the Mediterranean Network believe that the EGP should support in a more concrete way the weaker and new parties in the Mediterranean Region for the benefit not only of the parties themselves but also for the long term benefit of the EGP and the Green Group. The organization twice a year of a Med Net meeting in one of the Mediterranean countries, over and above the exchange of views on subjects of common interest, also encourages the members of the local parties to participate and offers a chance for media coverage. It also gives the opportunity to members of the parties to meet MEPs and other Green personalities who will be visiting their countries.

On the other hand the Med Net meetings with limited budget and poor participation especially if there is no representation from the Green Group offer little benefits and do not achieve their purpose.

The following suggestions were discussed:

- Some Med Net meetings may take place in parallel with the enlarged Green Group Bureau Meetings. This will create economies in the renting of facilities and will also ensure the participation of at least one MEP in the Med Net meetings
- Request an increase of the Med Net budget and/or supplementary financial support from the Green Group or some of the bigger Mediterranean parties.
- Request from the newly elected MEPs (eg. Greece, Portugal, France) to attend the Med Net meetings.
- Explain the need to support the Med Net Meetings to the newly elected EGP committee.