



## NON PROFIT ORGANISATION

**"European Green Party"  
"The European Greens"  
Abbreviated as "EGP"**

### STATUTES

#### Name and Seat

##### *ARTICLE 1*

Through the present statutes the member parties set up an international non profit association (AISBL), regulated by the dispositions of Title III of the law of 27 June 1921 on non profit associations (ASBL), international nonprofit associations (AISB) and foundations.

The Member Parties form the international non profit-organisation "European Green Party" (the European Greens), abbreviated as EGP, , hereafter called the "European Green Party".

The seat of the European Green Party is situated in rue Wiertz 31, in 1050 Brussels, Belgium, within the legal limits of the city of Brussels.

The Committee may move the seat anywhere in Belgium by simple majority vote. The move must be published in the Moniteur Belge.

#### Tasks and Aims

##### *ARTICLE 2*

The European Green Party

- a. is a European political party based on the Charter of European Greens (further described as the Green Charter) where there is room for all parties with a green agenda, from EU countries and from non-EU countries, but which at the same time allows a closer co-operation of those within the EU.
- b. ensures a close and permanent co-operation among Member Parties in order to accomplish the common policy, laid down by the Congress and Council.
- c. stimulates and organises initiatives and activities on a European level under the supervision of the Council and the Committee.
- d. devotes itself to an open, active, constructive and critical approach to the ongoing integration processes in Europe towards a world wide co-operation.
- e. takes part in the activities of similar transnational and global green co-operation structures.

- f. ensures a close cooperation and organises initiatives between the European Green Party and the Green Group in the European Parliament.
- g. The European Green Party is responsible for circulating information about member activities and other related subjects through periodic publications on its website and organising conferences and meetings between political partners as well as study and training days covering all subjects of interest related to European politics or to the countries of member parties.

### *ARTICLE 3*

The Member Parties shall maintain their name, identity and autonomy of acting within the scope of their national and regional responsibilities. The European Green Party is a mandated political body of its members. The Green Charter of the European Green Party is binding for the European Green Party's political bodies at the European level. Member parties should also abide by its principles.

### **Member Parties**

### *ARTICLE 4*

- a. The European Green Party is composed of Green Parties which meet all the following requirements:
  - being established in a state or a region of Europe;
  - having subscribed to the Green Charter of the European Green Party;
  - aiming to achieve gender balance in their own party structures.
  - having accepted the Statutes of the European Green Party.
  - having been accepted by the European Green Party as a Member according to the regulations for the application procedure set down by the Council.
- b. The regulations for the application procedure are included in the Standing Orders.
- c. The Council, on the proposal of the Committee or at the request of 1/3 of the member parties, may decide to suspend the membership of any Member Party by a two thirds majority after hearing the defence of the concerned party. The member party must be informed of a motion to such effect three months ahead of the council where this is tabled and voted.

After one year the member party may apply to the council to reconsider their suspension. Suspended members have no voting rights but keep the right to participate in debates. Like other members they are obliged to pay the membership fee.

The Council may, on the proposal of the Committee or on the request of 1/3 of the member parties, may decide to withdraw the membership of any Member Party by a three-quarter majority, and after hearing the defence of the concerned party. The member party must be informed of a motion to such effect three months ahead of the council where this is tabled. The decision will be take at the subsequent council meeting

- d. Member Parties must give six months' notice to the Council if they wish to resign from the European Green Party.

## **Observers**

### *ARTICLE 5*

- a. At the proposal of the Committee the Council can, by a two-thirds majority, attribute the status of Observer to parties, organisations or movements which accept the Green Charter of the European Green Party.
- b. For expulsion the same procedure is used as in article 4c
- c. Observers have full speaking rights but no voting rights. Other privileges and duties of the Observers are laid down in Standing Orders.
- d. Observers shall pay such subscriptions as determined by the Council.

## **Honorary members, Individual members, Donors and Supporters**

### *ARTICLE 6*

The European Green Party is open to individual membership under special circumstances:

- a. Honorary membership may be granted – after the unanimous vote of the Committee and ratification by the Council – upon a person, who has contributed in an outstanding manner to the development of Green thinking or Green structures.
- b. Members of the Green Group in the European Parliament are to be considered automatically eligible for the individual membership of the European Green Party as long as they belong to a European Green Party member party. Individual Green MEPs may give donations to the European Green Party, in accordance with the established rules.  
Members of the Green Group in the European Parliament who belong to a party which is not a member of the European Green Party can only become members of the European Green Party on an individual basis if their membership is approved by a unanimous vote of the Committee ratified by Council.
- c. Donors: The status of a donor shall be open for persons and organisations who wish to contribute financially to Green policies on the European level.
- d. Supporters: The status of supporters is open for every person who wishes to join Green structures on this European level and accepts the Green Charter of the European Green Party.

As the EGP is a European Green Party of Member Parties, the decision-making process, i.e. the voting rights are confined to delegates of the Member Parties. Supporters and donors are entitled to regular information about programmatic developments and policies of the European Green Party. On application they may attend the meetings of the European Green Party and regional networks with a limited possibility to participate in discussions and without voting rights.

## **Green Group and Youth wing**

### *ARTICLE 7*

The European Green Party gives the power to represent it politically in the European Parliament only to the group of MEP's subject to Article 6B of the present Statutes.

The European Green Party has as its youth wing the Federation of Young European Greens (FYEG).

## **Regional Co-operation**

### *ARTICLE 8*

The Members of the European Green Party may organise themselves in regional groupings within the framework of the European Green Party.

## **Enhanced cooperation**

### *ARTICLE 9*

Any number of Member Parties of the European Green Party can engage in common political activities, such as common election campaign. These activities can take place within the European Green Party, including the use of its name and logo, subject to the following conditions:

- All Member Parties must be informed, through the Committee, of the activity and must be welcome to participate if they wish so;
- The group of Member Parties involved in the activities must not appear to represent the whole European Green Party;
- The activities shall only be carried out in the countries of the participating Member Parties or, if outside, only with the explicit agreement of the local Member Party.
- The use of European Green Party's logo or name needs approval of the Committee or the Council.

## **Bodies of the European Green Party**

### *ARTICLE 10*

- a. The bodies of the European Green Party are
- the Council, which is the General Assembly of the European Green Party
  - The enlarged Council called the Congress, which is the enlarged General Assembly of the European Green Party
  - the European Green Party Committee, hereafter called the Committee, which is the Executive Board of the European Green Party
  - the Mediation Committee
  - the Finance Monitoring Group

- b. Only persons elected or appointed by a Member Party of the European Green Party are entitled to vote in the respective bodies of the European Green Party.
- c. The Member Parties of the European Green Party are responsible for ensuring that rules regarding gender balance in all bodies of the European Green Party are observed.
  - Congress: delegations of four members must include at least two women, the other two may be either men or women; all larger delegations must include both 40% men and women, the other members may be of either sex
  - Council: in the case of one delegate, that delegate may be either male or female; in the case of two delegates, one must be female, the other can be male or female.
  - Committee: at least 40% of the members elected must be women and at least 40% men.
- d. Notice of meetings of the Council and the Congress shall be given to the Member Parties six months in advance of the date of the meeting by regular mail or email. Notice of the venue of the meeting shall be given to Member Parties three months in advance of the meeting. Deadline for receipt of agenda items from Member Parties shall be no later than eight weeks prior to the day of the Council meeting. The Secretary General shall issue the proposed agenda six weeks in advance and the final agenda no later than three weeks in advance of the meeting.
- e. All resolutions and decisions taken by the Council and the Congress shall be made public on the European Green Party's official website.

## **The Congress**

### *ARTICLE 11*

- a. The Congress is an enlarged meeting of the Council. It shall take place every two and a half years. A congress will be organised early in the year of a European Election. It shall be convened by a decision of the Council who shall agree the place, date, agenda and Congress regulations. These decisions will be notified by regular mail or by email. The Congress can be postponed by a decision of the Council for a maximum of one year. An extra-ordinary Congress may be convened by the council
- b. The Congress shall decide on
  - the common policy of the European Green Party
  - amendments of the Green Charter of the European Green Party
  - winding up of the European Green Party
- c. The Congress shall consist of
  - Delegates of the full Member Parties of the European Green Party, the delegates who represent those Green MEP's who are individual members of the EGP and the delegates from FYEG, with full voting rights.

- Members of the Committee, Observers and Members of the Bureau of the Green Group without voting rights
- d. Allocation of Congress delegates shall be as follows:
- the Congress consists of 400 delegates allocated proportionally.
  - each Member Party shall have at least four delegates. This applies also to regional parties who do not run against each other in national or European elections. When two member parties from the same country run against each other in national or European Elections, they are entitled to a minimum of two delegates each
  - The delegates will be allocated according to two principles :
    - o 50% of the 400 delegates are proportionally divided according to the highest number of votes, which the Member Party gained in the last national or last European elections. Votes above 2 million are divided by 2 for this calculation
    - o The other 50% of the 400 delegates are proportionally divided according to the highest percentage reached in the last national or last European elections.
  - Where Member Parties participate in an alliance or coalition, their votes will be calculated in proportion to the Green votes in the total votes of the alliance/coalition based on the seats gained respectively by the alliance and the member party of the EGP
  - Parties that do not qualify for a minimum of four seats via the proportionally allocated delegates shall be allocated additional seats (above the 400).
  - The elected MEP, who are members of the EGP, have the right to six delegates
  - The FYEG shall have 6 delegates
- e. All Congress regulations are established by the Council according to the Standing Orders.
- f. The Committee may invite special guests and guest delegations, who do not have voting rights.
- g. With regards to the Congress, the voting rules are applied in the same way as in Council, the Congress being an enlarged Council.

## **The Council**

### *ARTICLE 12*

- a. The Council shall consist of delegates allocated according to the following rules:
- Each Member Party has at least one voting delegate.
  - Parties who received more than 150.000 votes in the last national or European elections are entitled to a second voting delegate.
  - Parties are entitled to additional votes for every following absolute voting result they receive during the last National or European elections: 400.000 votes; 800.000 votes; 1.200.000 votes; 1.600.000 votes; 2.000.000 votes and every additional million votes.

- Parties are entitled to a supplementary vote for every following percentage voting results they receive during the last National or European elections: 4%, 8%, 12%, 16% and 20%
- Parties which receive a percentage result of 10% or more during National or European elections, even if they do not have 150.000 votes or more, are entitled to a second delegate without influencing their total number of votes in the council.
- Parties are entitled to an 2 additional delegates if their total number of votes is 4 or more; parties are entitled to 4 additional delegates if their total number of votes is 8 or more. This does not influence their total number of votes in the council.
- For those countries with more than 1 member party in the EGP the rules of article 12 are applied as follow:
  1. Election results for regional parliaments are not used for the allocation system in the EGP.
  2. For the additional voting rights based on absolute numbers of votes during national or European elections the rules are maintained.
  3. For the allocation of voting rights based on National and European % election results the following system is used:
 

The highest national or European % election result of both member parties are calculated together and that sum is used for the allocation system. The additional voting rights are distributed to the member party with the highest % electoral result. In the case of regional member parties these additional voting rights are proportionally distributed among those parties based on the 'highest % electoral results those parties have in the area where they run respectively.
- For parties who participate in elections in alliances with other parties, their votes and their percentages shall be calculated as in article 11d.
- Adjustments to the number of delegates and votes shall be made immediately following elections whose results change them.
- The Green Group in the European Parliament have the right to four delegates.
- FYEG has the right to two delegates.

#### Transitional measure

- The new rules of allocations are taking effect from the fall council 2008. The Parties that under the new rules would receive fewer votes in the council than under the earlier allocation system will keep their number of votes until the fall council of 2009. From the spring council in 2010 the new allocations will be in use for all parties.

#### The Members without voting rights are:

- the Members of the Committee
- the representatives of parties, organisations and movements with Observer status
- the Members of the Bureau of the Green Group.

b. The Council

- co-ordinates initiatives and activities consistent with the Green Charter, common policy and the Statutes of the European Green Party;
- is responsible for the political guidelines for the work of the European Green Party in between Congresses;
- elects the Committee and appoints the Mediation Committee;
- decides on the application and exclusion of Members and Observers;
- advises the Green Group in their decisions on the admission of MEPs, who do not belong to a Member Party of the European Green Party, after consultation with the national Green party concerned;
- supports and evaluates the Committee's activities and removes Committee members if necessary by a two thirds majority;
- approves staff, budget, accounts and treasury regulations after hearing the Finance Monitoring Group;
- changes the Statutes of the European Green Party. The Council retains this power at all times, even when it is meeting in Congress;
- elaborates the Standing Orders.

c. Voting at Council shall be by two thirds majority vote of those casting a negative or affirmative vote, with the exception of application, and exclusion of members and amendments to the Statutes, which shall require a  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority vote. Votes are only valid if half of the votes present are voting in favour. Where EU provisions for the European political parties require decisions to be made only by Member Parties in the EU countries, the European Green Party will comply by consulting all Member Parties and then taking a decision by vote of those parties in the EU countries. Votes are only valid if two thirds of the allocated votes are present at the Council meeting. A three quarters majority of Council delegates must be present to change the Statutes.

For amendments to resolutions and other documents to be voted on by the council a simple majority is sufficient.

- d. The Council is normally convened by the Committee at least once a year by regular mail or email. An extraordinary meeting of the Council may be convened at the suggestion of a simple majority of the Member Parties.
- e. The Committee is entitled to invite special guests or guest delegations to Council Meetings.

## **The Committee**

### *ARTICLE 13*

- a. There are 9 members of the Committee
  - two Spokespersons; one man and one woman
  - the Secretary-general who is based in Brussels
  - the Treasurer
  - five further personsThey are convened by email
- b. The Committee is responsible for the permanent political representation of the European Green Party, the execution of the Council's decisions and the activities of the Secretariat-General. It is entitled to make political statements on behalf of the European Green Party based on the Council's decisions and the political programme of the European Green Party and is politically responsible before the Council.  
The Committee is responsible for the management of the European Green Party within the budget and the guidelines approved by the Council.
- c. Each member of the Committee is elected in function by the Council for three years: no member may be elected for more than three terms consecutively. At the proposal of a Member Party, supported by at least five other Member Parties, a member of the Committee can be dismissed by the Council by a two thirds majority.
- d. In case of resignation of a member of the Committee, an election to replace the member will take place at the following Council meeting. The person elected will stay in office for the period coinciding with the end of term of all the other Committee members. This period does not count for the regulation under article 13 c.
- e. The Committee deliberates and makes decisions by two third majority.

## **Speaking and voting rights**

### *ARTICLE 14*

- a. Speaking and voting rights in the bodies of the European Green Party are not bound by imperative mandates.
- b. In the absence of a delegate, another delegate of the same Member Party can vote in his/her place.

## **Legal representatives**

### *ARTICLE 15*

- a. The Council is legally liable for actions of the European Green Party within the limits of the country where the official seat is situated, according to the Preamble.

- b. Any two of the Spokespersons, the Secretary General and the Treasurer are appointed to sign contracts on behalf of the European Green Party, to represent the European Green Party and defend its interests in court and to act as its legal representatives in the member states.

### **Commissions and Working Groups**

#### *ARTICLE 16*

The Committee and the Council are entitled to establish permanent commissions and ad hoc working groups.

Reports and proposals shall be submitted to the Committee or the Council for approval.

### **Quorum**

#### *ARTICLE 17*

The quorum for all European Green Party bodies or commissions shall be 50% of those entitled to be present, unless otherwise specified in Standing Orders or Statutes.

### **Staff, treasury and budget**

#### *ARTICLE 18*

- a. The Standing Orders specify the rules regarding staff, treasury and budget.
- b. Members parties who do not meet their financial commitments will lose all voting rights.

#### *ARTICLE 19*

The European Green Party is financed by membership fees, donations and other legal contributions.

The Treasurer, in agreement with the Committee, drafts the budget and the financial procedure, which must then be approved by the Council.

The Treasurer supervises the European Green Party's budget and reports to the Committee every three months.

The Committee is responsible for the sound financial management of the European Green Party.

#### *ARTICLE 20*

- a. The Treasurers' Group shall consist of the treasurers of the Member Parties of the European Green Party or their appointed representatives, and shall meet at least annually.
- b. The Council shall appoint a Finance Monitoring Group, to act as an advisory body to the Committee and Council in matters regarding staff, budget and treasury. It shall consist of no less than three, nor more than four persons. The term shall be three years.
- c. The accounts of the European Green Party shall be audited annually in compliance with art. 53 of the Belgian law governing international non-profit organisations.

## **Standing Orders**

### *ARTICLE 21*

At the suggestion of the Committee, the Council shall vote on the Standing Orders and on any changes to them.

## **Mediation Committee**

### *ARTICLE 22*

The Council may appoint a Mediation Committee consisting of 3 or 5 members, which is entitled to settle disputes between persons and bodies of the EGP on Statutes and regulation matters. All persons and bodies of the European Green Party shall be bound by the outcome of the mediation process.

## **Liquidation of the European Green Party**

### *ARTICLE 23*

The liquidation of the European Green Party must be decided on by a three-quarters majority of all Member Parties.

In the event of the liquidation of the European Green Party, after the settlement of contractual obligations to staff and other obligations, the remaining financial means shall be transferred to the Alexander Langer Foundation.

## **Additional Provisions**

### *ARTICLE 24*

In compliance with Article III of the law of 27 June 1921 governing non-profit organisations, international non-profit organisations and foundations, all changes to the present Statutes must be submitted to the Ministry of Justice and published in the Appendixes of the Moniteur belge.

Any omissions to the present Statutes are covered by the law of 27 June 1921 governing non-profit organisations, international non-profit organisations and foundations.

The courts of Brussels are the only ones deemed competent to judge matters related to the application of the present Statutes.

In the event of divergence or of doubt between these statutes in French and the original version in English, the English language version prevails.