



Program and Activities 2010/ Action Plan 2010

As adopted at the 11th Council Meeting
Malmö, 17th October 2009

I - Preamble

2009 was the year of the European Elections common campaign. 2010 will be the year of the consolidation of the successes obtained during the election campaign. It will also be an opportunity to tackle the weaknesses and failures we experienced so that we can implement our strategy to improve and develop our political presence in the countries where we were not able to get MEPs elected and where our performance remained a disappointment.

On the positive side of the 2009 Common electoral campaign which was run in a way that was complementary to the campaigns that the Green parties developed at the national level, the most important success was that the Greens increased their number of Green Members of the European Parliament from 37 to 46. This has allowed us, together with our partners in the European Free Alliance and some independent MEPs who joined the Group, to regain our position as the 4th political family at the European level with 55 MEPs. Here is an overview of the results obtained.

Country	Name of Party	Result in %	MEP's	votes
Austria	Die Grünen	9.93 %	2	284.505
Belgium	Ecolo	8.65 %	2	568.106
Belgium	Groen!	4.91%	1	322.149
Bulgaria	Zelenite	0.72 %	0	18.444
Cyprus	Cyprus Green Party	1.5 %	0	5.281
Czech Republic	Strana Zelenych	2,06 %	0	48.621
Denmark	SF	15.9%	2	
Estonia	Eestimaa Rohelised	2,73%	0	10.858
Finland	Vihreat	12.4%	2	206.439
France	Europe Écologie/Les Verts	16.2%	13	2.802.950
Germany	Bündnis90/Die Grünen	12,1%	14	3.192.821
Greece	Ecologoi Prasinoi	3.49 %	1	178.964
Hungary	LMP	2.61 %	0	75.522
Ireland	Comhaontas Glas	1.89 %	0	34.585
Italy	Federazione dei Verdi	3.12 %	0	958.458
Latvia	Latvijas Zala Partija			
Luxembourg	Déi gréng	16.82%	1	31.729
Malta	Alternattiva Demokratika	2.34%	0	6.268
Netherlands	Groenlinks	8.87 %	3	404.020
Netherlands	De Groenen	0.19 %	0	8.517
Poland	Zieloni 2004	2.43 %	0	179.602
Portugal	Os Verdes(coal)	10.66%	0	379.651
Slovakia	Strana Zelenych	2.11%	0	17.446
Slovenia	SMS	1.96%	0	9.093
Spain/Catalunya	ICV	3.73%	1	583.708
Spain	Verdes	0.15 %	(1)	23.776
Sweden	Miljöpartiet de Gröna	11.02%	2	349.114
UK/ England & Wales	The Green Party of England and Wales	8.6 %	2	1.223.303
UK/ Scotland	Scottish Green Party	0.50 %	0	80.442
TOTAL				

As can be seen from the preceding table, 5 member parties obtained more than 12% of the vote

while 11 obtained more than 8%. The Greens were the only already existing political group that increased their absolute number of MEPs in a Parliament that reduced its number of members. With 7.5%, the Greens obtained the best relative value of their history in the European parliament.

In this context we can be satisfied with our common campaign. We can declare without any exaggeration that we were the most coordinated political family during the European election campaign. We not only had a common slogan "Think Big Vote Green" which was used (even if the translations were not always exact) in most of the countries where we ran a campaign. We also had a clear common message contained in our Common Manifesto and our demands for a Green New Deal in Europe, we agreed on our Stop Barroso campaign, and, more in general, we can be proud that most of our member parties used the European elections to campaign on European issues and didn't just focus on domestic politics

Nevertheless, we have to acknowledge that while the result obtained was certainly very encouraging, there are several aspects that were quite disappointing. In short, the main problems are that we were not able to obtain any MEPs from the new member countries and that the Greens have become much weaker in the South of Europe. Obviously this is a very worrying situation that requires all of our attention. We need to find effective ways to overcome this weakness and the year 2010 will certainly be a crucial period for us to look at the problems, identify the practical steps that can be taken to reverse this situation and launch the initiatives required to overcome this situation.

However, this is not the only task which we will have to tackle. In recent years it has become clearer and clearer that some structural adjustments of the EGP are needed. The time has come to look at how the different bodies of the EGP function and interact, to examine what can be improved, how the decision making process can be made more effective, how we can increase our political profile and how the EGP can have a more proactive role.

We will also engage ourselves in a process to enhance, more generally, the role of the European political parties; increase the possibilities to participate for individuals who wish to get involved and support the EGP and strengthen its coordination role, particularly making the EGP better able to coordinate common campaigns decided together with the member parties.

During 2010 we will continue to take action to improve the communication and the coordination among greens at different levels beginning with those in government as is the case in Finland and in Ireland, with the Green in the EP but also with the more than 200 national MPs and certainly with the Greens that have more and more responsibility at the local level and in a large number of big cities all over Europe.

At the same time we will have to deal with different elections in several countries. We will face national elections in the UK no later than May 2010; there will also be local and regional elections in Italy, national elections in Hungary, parliamentary elections in Slovakia in June and national elections in Sweden, just to mention the most important ones. At the same time there will be a long list of local elections that are also extremely important for us.

The year 2010 will also be the year when the final steps concerning the accession of Croatia to the EU are taken. One of the major tasks of the EGP will be to follow this process very closely as well as the ratification. It is very likely that if the accession process goes smoothly there will be European elections in Croatia quite soon.

Even if it is too early to make predictions, it is clear that for us Greens in Europe but also worldwide, the post-Copenhagen period, after the negotiations that take place at the end of 2009, will be crucially important. In the best case, we will have to follow very closely the adaptation of the overarching agreements made to national legislation. In the worst case, we will have to continue pushing the EU to play a leading role in the international negotiations to get a global agreement that is able to make sure that the targets of maximum 2% of increase of the global temperatures as fixed by the UN-IPCC is achieved.

((**The adoption and the ratification of the Lisbon Treaty reached after the positive second referendum in Ireland has created a new situation. **) Greens all over Europe and in particular the EU member countries will have to look very carefully at the possibilities that the new Treaty opens in terms of better possibilities for the citizens to participate and get involved in the European process and at the same time examine carefully the implications of an expanded co-decision procedure, that strengthens the role of the European Parliament. It is clear that the adoption of the new treaty will revive the debates about the direction in which the EU should evolve and what should be its role. We Greens need to be prepared to reaffirm and when necessary develop our positions.

We have to be aware that all of this is occurring at a time when Europe as a whole and the European Union in particular will just be emerging from the deep economic crisis which started in the second half of 2008 and continued through 2009. The discussion about which economic direction to take will be very polarised. The political debate about how to reduce the deficits accumulated during the crisis, about how to deal with the increasing unemployment that will probably continue to be with us through all of 2010, will confront us with urgent economic and social questions. We need to be ready to fight with solid arguments and consistent proposals for our Green New Deal

It is up to us once more, as we did in the European elections, to demonstrate that we have the adequate answer to tackle simultaneously the different crises we are facing by combining ecology and economy, showing how our proposals focussed on green economics can and must play a crucial role creating new jobs and helping to promote the green reforms we advocate.

The year 2010 will furthermore still be marked by the situation that emerged after Russia intervened militarily in Georgia and the unilateral recognition of South Ossetia and Abkhazia as new independent nation-states by the Russian President Medvedev. On the other hand the new policy launched by the US after having abandoned the idea to establish the missiles shield in Poland and the Czech Republic will certainly lead to new developments. At the same time the unacceptable situation concerning human rights in the Russian Federation and the increasing threats to independent journalists will continue to be one of our main preoccupations.

A complex list of new questions will emerge as a result. They will greatly influence the 2010 political European agenda and certainly demand a considerable part of our attention. Among other subjects we will have to take a clear stand on the future of the cooperation agreements with Russia and the EU policies regarding Georgia, Ukraine and the Caucasus region more generally. At the same time the new situation in the Caucasus will strengthen the desire in Europe to become more independent in terms of energy supply.

The list of topics on which the EGP will have to be able to react to and give answers to is therefore extremely long and complex.

The fact that we Greens, as mentioned above, form part of the government in some EU Countries as Finland and Ireland and that we have an important role to play in the European Parliament as well as in national parliaments and several regional bodies make our collective responsibility more important. We need to reinforce our capacity according to a common policy approach. This will require a strong additional effort from the EGP to focus more on the different topics that will come up and increase our capacity to come to common positions and statements.

We must therefore adapt our strategies so that we become more politically relevant in order to influence the society in a "green" direction.

The EGP will have to show in 2010 that it also exists politically in between European elections and can contribute to the political debate not just when there are European elections.

We will try to strengthen our efforts in the new member states of the EU where our ecological and social policies are not well enough known and understood. However, unlike in previous years, in 2010 these efforts will be focussed in a more selective way. Whereas in countries such as the Czech Republic, Malta or Estonia, green ideas are well known by their citizens, there are still serious problems in countries like Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary, Slovakia and Poland.

The cooperation with our Green member and observer parties in Georgia, Ukraine, Russia, Turkey and other non-EU member states will certainly receive an increased amount of our attention due to the situation in the Caucasus and in the whole region. As already mentioned, the accession process of Croatia will demand from the EGP to give an increased attention to the situation in the Balkans and support strongly our member and observer parties in this region.

II - MORE SPECIFICALLY

During 2008 and 2009 we have been working hard to develop the political profile of the EGP. The new thematic Working Groups that were created in our Council meeting in Berlin in March 2007 have been delivering concrete results so that we were able to make use of a consistent set of policy papers that cover the main political areas, from our view of the Green economy, to immigration, human rights and social policies as well as food security and GMOs. Along with the Manifesto prepared at the end of 2008 and in the first part of 2009, parties were able to refer to a broad set of texts defining the EGP positions in the run-up to the common campaign for the 2009 European elections as well as during the hot phase of the campaign.

The year 2010 has to help to consolidate all of these efforts and to improve the situation where we have not been able to obtain the desired results.

To do this we will again establish a certain number of permanent and temporary working groups focussing on our most important political topics. This decision will certainly be taken some time in 2010.

In 2010 the EGP will continue supporting and being involved in the stopclimatechange.net campaign that is being developed together with the Green Group in the EP.

As has already been mentioned, one of the significant focuses of our activity during 2010 will be continuing to support the weaker parties mainly in the new EU member states, at least where we might realistically hope for some political success. Of course, this will be in the frame of the possibilities offered by the regulations that govern our activities,

In 2010 we will continue with and enhance our efforts to get our European local green politicians to cooperate in a more intensive way and to try to build up a permanent network of those local politicians so that information about best practice and different experiences circulates in a better way. To facilitate this process we also count on an important commitment by the Green Group in the EP in terms of helping to prepare and being part of this project. .

The EGP will continue to increase its efforts to improve the networking and the dissemination of information among the different member parties and national parliamentary groups, as well as the Greens//EFA Group in the EP. The efforts of the last year to improve internal communication will be intensified and strengthened including the development of new tools. A particular effort will be made to increase our services to the ever-growing number of supporters of the EGP. To do so we will adapt the campaign Web Page and try to continue building up the community tools we have already developed during the European electoral campaign.

Concerning individual supporters, the EGP will increase its efforts to get more green activists from the different member parties involved at the European level. The European common election campaign has stimulated our activists to also commit themselves at the European level. The Committee will increase its efforts to develop the Coordination of Individual Supporters, making use of previous initiatives that have played a pioneering role in this area. We will create electronic tools to allow the emergence of strong communities of individual supporters and to allow them a proactive role, including, if there is a demand for them the realisation of concrete initiatives as part of the common 2010 political initiatives.

After the Second Global Green Congress, held in May 2008 in Sao Paolo, the EGP will continue to intensify its contacts with Green parties in other parts of the world and to live up to its commitment to developing cooperation among the regional federations of the different continents a basic structure to improve communication at the global level.

Furthermore we will continue our efforts to develop and strengthen our relations with the Federation of Young European Greens in their new situation as an organisation that now benefits from full membership of the EGP with representatives at all the different levels. The adoption of a text on youth policies during the Council in Brussels has given a new political stimulus to our mutual cooperation. The good cooperation we were able to develop during the European common electoral campaign provides us with concrete examples on how this can be done.

In 2009 we accepted the European Network of Green Seniors (ENGS) as observers of the EGP. 2010 certainly will show how this new situation can and will be transformed into a stronger active and fruitful cooperation.

At the same time, after having a crucial role in the creation of the European Political Foundations and the establishment of our own Green European Foundation (GEF) in 2008/2009, we will continue our effort to help to strengthen its role. In this context, we will try to ensure in 2010, that, among other things, the GEF continues to offer training courses for weaker parties. According to all the feedback we have received, these training courses have been well received by all participants.

If the year 2009 was the year during which the EGP gained a limited but perceptible presence in the media through an active external communication policy, the year 2010 will be the year to reinforce this presence including a more active communication activity. This is a must, linked to our existence as a European Political Party. This includes our efforts to improve our presence on the WEB through our new Web-Page and an increase effort to provide a set of texts electronically, available if possible in several languages, so that citizens, parties and journalists interested in them can download or even print them. We will also make an additional effort to communicate with the NGO-networks present in Brussels.

The role of the national party delegates as first points of contact for the EGP is and remains extremely important. Moreover, national party delegates should ensure that they keep their party spokespersons, MPs and activists up-to-date with the EGP's activities and initiatives. We welcome the greater efforts of more and more member parties to include among their delegates people with high responsibilities in their organisations. Without any doubt this helps to enhance the role of the EGP.

Having the above scenario in mind, the Council has earmarked the following priorities of the European Green Party for the year 2010.

III - PRIORITIES FOR THE YEAR 2010

(A) Completing the preparation and launch of a road map to strengthen the weaker parties

The Committee will accelerate and complete during the first months of 2010 the preparation of a road map to help to develop and strengthen weaker green parties following the strategic discussions held at the end of 2009 and based on the results obtained during the last European elections. In this context the EGP will put in place together with the Foundation and as far as possible with the Group, initiatives including different training courses, preparation of concrete support missions, etc. to help those green parties that have a real chance to emerge and to obtain some institutional representation. Once more we will try to stimulate stronger parties to support and help weaker ones,

(B) Organisation of the 12th and 13th EGP Councils

One of the main activities of the EGP in 2010 will be the organization of the 12th and the 13th Council meeting. Following the proposal of the previous Committee and the offer of ICV from Catalonia, the 12th Council of the EGP will be held in Barcelona from 19th to 21st March 2010.

The twelfth Council meeting will focus on key aspects of how to improve and develop the work of the EGP. The thirteenth Council will certainly be dedicated to adopt the structural changes agreed and to adopt the final decisions concerning the implementation of the changes adopted. At the same time the effort to raise the political presence of the EGP through topical and thematic working groups will be pushed forward.

(C) The Climate Change campaign

The EGP will continue being involved and participating within its limited means, in the Information Campaign on Energy and Climate Change that is being run together with the Green Group in the EP and that will be redefined after the COP 15. Early 2010 will be also the moment to consider together with the member and observer parties the possibilities of and/or need to launch any other campaigns.

(D) Getting the Green New Deal started

The Green New Deal is of crucial importance for the EGP and will be one of the party's main political topics in the coming years. The Green New Deal will play a central role in all our party activities. We will intensify our efforts to get the EU and its member states as well as the governments from other non EU countries to engage themselves in a green economic, social and environmental policy inspired by our proposal of a Green New Deal.

(E) Working Groups

The Working Groups officially created in Berlin in March 2007 have done their work. Most of them have prepared the texts we had asked them for and therefore made an extremely important contribution to our common electoral campaign. Beyond the permanent working groups (Security and foreign policy, gender etc, there are now request to transform the ad-hoc working groups (economy WG, Social WG, Immigration etc) into permanent working groups.

The decision on how to continue with the Working Groups will be a substantial part of the new Working Group on the Future of the EGP that was created in autumn 2009 in Malmö. This WG will have to prepare a position including its financial implications, and make a preliminary proposal to the 12th Council meeting in March 2010.

(F) Permanent Working Groups

1. Gender Democracy WG

During 2010, the work on the Code of Best practice in the field of Gender Democracy within the European Green parties will be continued by the WG in cooperation with EGGO, the European Greens Gender Observatory.

2. Common Foreign Security Policy WG

The aim of this WG is to update the policies of the Greens in this area, while keeping abreast of the rapidly evolving international scenario. The persisting tensions and risks of conflict, the increased involvement of the EU member countries in several peacekeeping missions and the need to strengthen the EU foreign policy in a frame that has changed radically after Obama is in office enhances the responsibility of this Working Group. We hope to benefit from the full involvement of national member parties as well as of the GGEP.

(G) Local green politicians' coordination

Following the successful meeting held in Stuttgart in December 2008 of Green local politicians from all over Europe, that was organised mainly by the German Greens and the Green Group in the EP but also with the help of representatives of the Austrian Greens and of Iniciativa per

Catalunya, we will, in 2010, try to improve the contacts and the exchange of best practices and experiences among local politicians.

(H) Individual Supporter ship.

The EGP has been supportive of the efforts to consolidate the supporters' system and its adoption by an increasing number of member parties. The previous Committee was able to find an agreement with the existing individual supporters and its coordination, to integrate the individual supporters fully in the collective workings of the EGP. The year 2010 will be when these new structures including the Individual Supporters Network start to fully function and to develop their potential. The information flow from the EGP to the individual supporters and among them has to be upgraded. The path to enhance the roll of the individual supporters will certainly form part of the reflections of the Working Group on the Future of the EGP.

(I) European Green Foundation

The Green European Foundation is now functioning on the basis of its new statute as a structure in the context of the European parties. The first projects under this new legal framework were launched during the last months of 2008. The year 2009 has seen the Foundation able to function to its full capacity. A full-time programme director was engaged and in an administrative team has also been established. The General Assembly of the Foundation also had the opportunity to decide, based on a proposal from the Board, the general outlines of the activities of the GEF. The year 2010 will probably lead to an increase of the Budget for the Foundations that would also benefit the GEF and expand, to a certain extent, its capacities. The EGP will continue to seek close cooperation with the foundation.

(J) Regional Networks and Cooperation

The aim of the regional networks is to strengthen the member and partner Green parties of the different regional areas, with a view to ensuring that Green principles and ideals are strengthened all over Europe. At the same time we hope to integrate them in a more coherent way into the strategy of the EGP. The networks will have to present to the Committee their proposals for activities. These will be discussed and decided together with the Committee. Some of them will be part of the Action Plan 2010.

Proposed Network programs for 2010

- Green East West Dialogue

Apart from the fringe meetings at the spring and autumn councils, the GEWD proposes several meetings in the new EU member states but also in other east European countries.

- Mediterranean - Adriatic Green Network

Apart from the fringe meetings before the councils in spring and autumn, the Mediterranean Green network will hold two meetings together with the Adriatic Green Network.

- Baltic Green Network

The Baltic Green network will hold two fringe meetings at the spring and autumn council meeting.

- Green Island Network

The activities planned by the GIN will be specifically designed to highlight British and Irish Green Islands Common Issues. The GIN will also have two fringe meetings in the spring and autumn council meetings.

(K) Cooperation with FYEG (Federation of Young European Greens)

With a view to further developing green ideas amongst young people in Europe, the Committee will intensify its cooperation with the FYEG, the official youth organisation of the EGP.

The EGP will commit to promoting the necessary initiatives in order to find a financial solution at the EU level that allows the FYEG to obtain adequate structural financing, always keeping its autonomy and a high level of independence.

(L) Upgrading our Web Page

The new Web Page will be fully working. Regarding its internal section, we will develop the intranet in order to have a more efficient tool to communicate with party representatives, delegates and individual supporters. At the same time we hope to transform our common Web Page into a platform for interactive communication with green party members and green supporters. We hope that during 2010 we will be able to improve and develop the links between the EGP Web Page and the member parties' Web Pages. At the same time we will try to transform our Web Page into a tool for possible common campaigns.

IV- GLOBAL GREENS

After the Second Global Green Congress held in May 2008 in Sao Paolo, the EGP will continue to intensify its contacts with Green parties in other parts of the world and to comply with its commitment to develop, in cooperation with the regional federations of the different continents a basic structure to improve the communication at the global level.

At the same time the efforts to improve the Global Green Web Page will continue.

After the meeting of the Global Green Coordination that will take place in December 2009 in Copenhagen, we expect a road map for the Global Greens. The meeting of the Federation of the Greens of the Americas that will take place in Santiago de Chile at the end of October 2009 will be of crucial importance. At the same time there are some interesting developments in Africa; among them, the attempt to hold the first Congress of the African Greens in Uganda in March 2010. The EGP will be following these developments very closely.

V- ADMINISTRATION AND COMMUNICATION

There are two crucial elements that play a major role in this area in 2010

- a) the fact that there will be a new Committee and
- b) that there will be a limited increase of the budget.

This budget increase takes place

- a) because we have more green MEPs than before and
- b) because of this increased budget allocation foreseen for the European parties and that in some way will also benefit the EGP.

This improvement will allow us to look into obtaining technical resources and perhaps even premises which are better suited to the needs of the EGP if it is to run even more efficiently.

As regards publications, we will continue improving our internal communication. UPDATE Flash with information mainly about our member parties but sometimes also about Green Parties from other parts of the world will continue to be published on a weekly basis. We will try to increase the cooperation and participation of the member parties.