

## **Program and Activities 2009/ Action Plan 2009**

**As adopted at the 9<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting**

**Paris, 12<sup>th</sup> October 2008**

### **Preamble**

2008 was the year of the preparation of the 2009 European Elections common campaign project. The year 2009 will be the year of the launch of our common European elections campaign and of the European elections as such. Most of our efforts this year will be focused on running an EU-wide electoral campaign for the European elections as a complement to the national European elections that will be organized by our member parties.

During 2008 we continued being in government as part of different coalitions in the Czech Republic, Finland and Ireland. At the same time we obtained consistent results in some national and local or regional elections mainly in the case of Austria, Hamburg and others. In the case of Hamburg the electoral success led to participation in the Government. The good results obtained in Switzerland, Finland and during the presidential and the national elections in Slovenia are further positive indications. Nevertheless we have to acknowledge a heavy defeat in Italy where we lost our seats both in Parliament and the Senate at the last national elections.

These results reinforce our determination to face the challenges 2009 will bring. We will have to deal with different elections in several countries. In addition to the European elections, we will face crucial national elections in Germany, possibly the UK, Portugal, Slovakia, Moldova and Macedonia, Luxemburg, Lithuania, Bulgaria Serbia, Albania, Norway, Ukraine and Romania.... At the same time there will be a long list of local elections that are also extremely important for us.. Just to mention some of them: Malta, Latvia, Macedonia, Northern Ireland and Scotland as well as Croatia, Belgium and Italy

The year 2009 will also be a crucial year for the future of climate change. The Copenhagen Conference regarding the future steps that are to be taken following the Kyoto protocol from 2012 on will be decisive for the future of Climate Change and for the direction that future energy policies will take. In order to swiftly implement measures limiting the average global temperature increase, it will be necessary to go beyond the current 20 % greenhouse gas reduction targeted by the Commission by 2020. We will have to push hard in order to get the European Union to achieve at least a 25-40% reduction of GHG emissions by 2020 compared to the Kyoto baselines. Without this additional effort on the part of the EU it will be impossible to stay under the 2% increase of the temperature that the UN-IPCC indicates as the maximum increase tolerable if we wish to avert the most negative consequences of climate change. A clear signal from the EU to the rest of the world is required in order to be able to persuade the other industrial countries to follow us and to get the emerging countries to accept their part of the burden.

Of course the financial crisis and the upcoming recession will make things not easier. We already see that several member states are trying to water down or revise the so called 20/20/20 decision from March 2006. A stronger regulation of the financial markets as decided in our Council in Paris has to go hand in hand with a proactive policy to reduce the carbon footprint of our production and consumption. The financial, climate and energy crisis have to be tackled in the frame of a strong social justice. The reforms required in this different areas are not in contradiction but are complementary.

The negative result of the referendum in Ireland on the Lisbon Treaty has created an extremely complex situation regarding the implementation of the institutional reforms the EU needs. The year 2009 will be strongly marked by the efforts to find a way out of the present institutional stagnation. It is clear that this renewed institutional crisis will provoke a revival of 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 our positions as adopted during our last Congress in Geneva in 2006.

The year 2009 furthermore will be marked strongly by the new situation that emerged after Russia intervened militarily in Georgia and the unilateral recognition of South Ossetia and Abkhazia as new independent national states by the Russian President Medvedev. A complex list of new questions has emerged as a result. They will have a prominent role on the 2009 political European agenda and certainly require a significant part of our attention. Among others 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 fact that we Greens, as mentioned above, form part of the government in four EU Countries ( Finland, Czech Republic, Ireland and Latvia) and that we have an important role to play in the European Parliament as well as in several regional bodies makes our collective responsibility more important. We need to reinforce our capacity according to a common policy approach. This will become particularly visible from the moment that the Czech Government takes over the EU-Presidency during the first half of 2009. With four ministers, including the Foreign Minister, it is clear that Greens will have a special responsibility.

The upcoming European elections will be the main priority of the EGP during 2009. We will do everything necessary to maintain our position as the 4<sup>th</sup> political force in Europe in 2008.

We must therefore adapt our strategies so that we are not only able to influence society in a “green” direction, but are also able to become more politically relevant. In the meantime the EGP has the possibility of running legally a European electoral campaign. The reform of the Statutes of the European Parties has formally recognized this possibility.

We will try to strengthen our efforts in the new member states of the EU where our ecological and social policies are not well known. But unlike previous years, in 2009 these efforts will be oriented in a more selective way. While 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.

### **More specifically**

After our second congress in October 2006, the EGP has a new Green Charter of Principles and the Resolution on “A Green Future for Europe” as a solid political basis to deal with the upcoming political challenges.

During 2007 and 2008 we have continued 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 are 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, social policies as well as food security and GMOs. Together with the Manifesto prepared at the end of 2008 we will therefore be able to refer to a

broad set of texts defining the EGP positions in the run-up to the common campaign for the European elections in June 2009. These texts will make up the reference texts for the 2009 common European election campaign.

After the Paper on the strategy for the European Elections fixing the main priorities and the general direction of the common campaign that has been adopted in Ljubljana, the Committee and the other bodies we have created for this are committed to developing the practical and the logistical aspects of this campaign in cooperation with the advertising agency and the company that is developing our campaign web page. At the same time we have been working on and will finalize the design and the tools to be presented to the citizens in the context of the common campaign. After a first presentation of some of these elements during the present Council in Paris, we will prepare the actual launch of the common campaign during our 3<sup>rd</sup> Congress that will take place in March and will be focused on the European elections.

At the same time the Electoral Strategic Working Group and the Campaign Team, together with the campaigners, the press and communications teams and the treasurers of the member parties will continue to be involved in this preparatory work.

During 2009, the EGP will continue supporting at least in logistical terms the Energy and Climate Change Campaign that is been developed by the Green Group in the EP as well as the other information campaigns run by the Group.

One of the significant focuses of our activity during 2009 will be continuing to support the weaker parties mainly in the new EU member states, at least where hopes for political success might realistically be held. This of course in the frame of the possibilities offered by the present regulations that govern our activities,

During 2009 we will continue and enhance our efforts to get our European local green politicians to cooperate in a more intensive way and try to build up a permanent network of them in order to ensure that information about best practice and different experiences circulates in a better way. In this context we are planning a bigger conference of green local politicians to be held in the spring in Germany. This event will obviously require cooperation not only between the EGP and the German Greens but also between other parties that have been taking a leading role in this process, such as the Austrian Greens and Iniciativa per Catalunya-Verds, just to mention two examples. Of course we also count on an important engagement by the Green Group in the EP in terms of helping to prepare and participating in this gathering.

The EGP will continue increasing its efforts to improve the networking and the dissemination of information amongst the different member parties and national parliamentary groups, as well as the Greens//EFA Group in the EP. The efforts made during the last year to improve the 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.

Concerning individual supporters, the EGP will increase its efforts to get more green activists from the different member parties involved at the European level. We hope that the European common election campaign will stimulate our activists to also commit themselves at the European level. The Committee will increase its efforts to develop a Coordination of Individual Supporters involving 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 wished, the realisation of concrete initiatives as part of the common 2009 European electoral campaign.

After the Second Global Green Congress, held in May 2008 in Sao Paulo, the EGP will continue to intensify its contacts with Green parties in other parts of the world and to comply with its

commitment to developing in cooperation with 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 organization 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 Paris will give a new political stimulus to our mutual cooperation. Furthermore we hope to be able to cooperate strongly during the EGP campaign for the European elections.

During 2009 we will come to a conclusion concerning our negotiations with the European Network of Green Seniors (ENGS) and decide about the concrete modalities of our cooperation.

At the same time, after having a crucial role in the creation of the European Political Foundations and the foundation of our own Green European Foundation (GEF) in 2008, in 2009 we will continue our effort to develop a good functioning structure able to strengthen in a positive way the development of the green political family in Europe. In this context, during 2009 we will try to ensure, among other things, that the GEF continues to offer training sessions for weaker parties. According to all the feedback we have received, these training sessions have been well received by all participants.

If the year 2008 was the year during which the EGP gained a limited but perceptible presence in the media through an active external communication policy, the year 2009 will be the year to reinforce this dimension 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 the parties interested in them can download or even print them. At the same time we will make an additional effort to communicate with the NGO-networks present in Brussels in the context of the preparation of the European elections.

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 abreast of the Federation's activities and workings. We welcome the persistent 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 Federation for the year 2009.

## **1. PRIORITIES FOR THE YEAR 2009**

### **(A) Completing the preparation and launch of the Common 2009 European Elections Campaign**

The Committee will accelerate and complete during the first months of 2009 the preparation of the European Elections 2009 common campaign. The Committee will continue with a series of preparatory meetings starting with the party leaders, the Strategic Campaign Steering Group, the Campaign Team and possibly additional meetings with party campaign managers, the party press officers and if necessary the party treasurers, in order to launch the common 2009 campaign.

The Campaign Web Page will be fully working. Its internal section, the intranet will be the vehicle to spread to the parties the different messages and tools of the campaign to the national

parties so that they can use them for their campaigns. At the same time we hope to transform our common Web Page into a platform for interactive communication with green party members and green potential voters as part of the common campaign. We hope that from the beginning of 2009 all the member parties will have a link on their respective national web pages allowing a direct access to the campaign web page. At the same time a link will be established from the campaign web page to the national party web pages.

We will intensify our activity as a clearing house in order to put stronger and weaker parties in contact, in order to promote sponsorships, mutual help and the cooperation among them including reciprocal help during the election campaigning.

### **(B) Organization of the 3<sup>rd</sup> EGP Congress**

One of the main activities of the EGP during the first part of 2009 will be the organization of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Congress. For the first time we will organize a Congress with the participation of the full number of delegates (more than 400) as compared to half of the full number as foreseen by the transition rules in force until now. Of course this will represent an additional effort in terms of both organization and finances. This Congress will be clearly an electoral Congress showing the official launch of our 2009 common European election campaign, the presentation of the candidates at the European level, etc.

### **(C) Priorities and 2009 common electoral platform /manifesto**

During the first months before the Congress we will continue working on the improvement of the Manifesto in the spirit of the text adopted in the Paris Council of October 2009. It will be updated and rewritten to make it more appealing and more to the point. At the same time it will be translated in as many languages as possible. The final adoption will then be made during our Congress in late March 2009.

### **(D) The Energy and Climate Change campaign and others**

The EGP will continue supporting with its limited means the Information Campaign on Energy and Climate Change that is being run by the Green Group in the EP and that tackles a considerable number of the issues we have chosen to stress for the 2009 European Elections common campaign. The same can be said for the Food security campaign also being prepared by the Green Group in the EP as well as other information campaigns that are being launched by them (free software, etc.)

### **(E) 3<sup>rd</sup> Congress of local green politicians in spring 2009**

Parallel to our 3<sup>rd</sup> Congress we will organize together with other partners (mainly the German Greens but also with representatives of the Austrian Greens and of Iniciativa per Catalunya) and the Green Group in the EP, the third Europe-wide gathering of local green politicians. It will be a good occasion to exchange best practices and experiences. But it should also help to illustrate the strong links existing between European policies and the local level and not just because of the structural funds.

### **(F) Council Meetings**

In 2009 our tenth and eleventh Council Meetings will take place. The tenth Council meeting will focus on key aspects of the European common campaign and will take place at the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Congress. The Autumn Council will be dedicated mainly to evaluating the activity of the EGP during the last 3 years including the common European election campaign and to fixing the

priorities for the next years. The present Committee will have finished its mandate and a new one has to be elected. At the same time the present committee will present a proposition for the new committee on how to improve the work of the EGP mainly concerning the establishment of permanent thematic working groups.

### **(G) Cooperation with FYEG (Federation of Young European Greens)**

An important part of the green electorate comes from young people. Moreover because young people are generally more receptive to change than adults, this is a perfect target group to explain the limitations of our current social and economical system and to demonstrate that alternatives exist. In the long term, it is worthwhile and necessary to invest in a youth structure in order to build up a strong basis for a true societal change and to spread over our views in a part of the society which is more sensitive to alternative ways of living.

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 and logistic solution at the EU level that allows the FYEG to obtain adequate structural financing, always keeping its autonomy and a high level of independence.

## **2. 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. Beyond the permanent working groups (Security and foreign policy, gender etc) we now face the request to transform the ad-hoc working groups (economy WG, Social WG, Immigration etc) into permanent working groups. The Committee will look at this request, including its financial implications, and make a proposal to the 10<sup>th</sup> Council meeting in autumn. In the meantime we will nevertheless create the technical means to allow the different groups to continue being active on internet and also to make it possible to contact them if necessary during the 2009 campaign.

### **(A) Gender Democracy WG**

During 2009, 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.

### **(B) Common Foreign Security Policy WG**

The aim of this WG is to update the policies of the Greens in this area, whilst keeping abreast of the rapidly evolving international scenario. After the meeting held during the Vienna Council, it was decided that it will be reactivated and take charge of the work on the necessary follow-up discussions in the area of security and conflict prevention. The increasing 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 will have meetings at the 2009 spring and Autumn Council meetings. We hope to benefit from the full involvement of national member parties as well as of the GGEP. The last evolutions in the Caucasus make its functioning more necessary than before.

### **(C) Individual Supportership.**

The EGP supports the efforts to consolidate the supportership system and its adoption by an increasing number of member parties. The Committee is in favour of enhancing the cooperation

among the Parties and its members at European level. The Committee commits itself to providing the communication structure and to ensure the flow of information to the supporters assured by the statutes. At the same time we will constitute a little group of the Committee to follow this and to prepare a proposal with recommendations on how to deepen the process launched with the individual supporters. The results should be submitted to the EGP during 2009.

### **3. 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 have been launched during the last months of 2008. The year 2009 will see the Foundation able to function to its full capacity. A full-time program coordinator will help to keep the Foundation functioning together with the Secretary General and the Board. In the meantime the General Assembly of the Foundation will have had the opportunity to decide the general outlines of the activities of the GEF.

### **4. 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 the Green principles and ideals are strengthened all over Europe. At the same time we hope to get them integrated 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 2009.

#### **Proposed Network programs for 2009**

##### **Green East West Dialogue**

Apart from the fringe meetings at the spring and autumn councils, the GEWD propose 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 Sea 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.

### **5. 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.

## **6. ADMINISTRATION AND COMMUNICATION**

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 being published in on a weekly basis. We will try to increase the cooperation and participation of the member parties.

During the hot phase of the electoral campaign we will make sure that an effective instrument with information about the concrete campaigns both at the European level as well as at the national level exists.

As soon as our member parties have nominated the candidates for the European elections and before the 3<sup>rd</sup> Congress of the EGP we will produce a Directory with the list of the candidates and the relevant contacts for the campaign.

In the context of the campaign we will also launch community tools using the platform offered by our campaign Web Page. We will try to involve volunteers to participate to animate this communication tools.

Among other aspects, we will adopt a new logo.

## **7. SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES 2009**

- Committee Meeting, 16-18 January 2009, Brussels
- Committee Meeting, 13-15 February 2009, Brussels
- Third EGP Congress, 3-4 April, Brussels
- 10<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting, 5 April, Brussels
- Committee Meeting, 8-10 May 2009, Brussels
- Committee Meeting, 11-13 September 2009
- 11<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting, 16-18 October 2009
- Committee Meeting, 20-22 November 2009
- Committee Delegations to Capitals
- Green Politicians meeting
- Fact finding visits
- Common Political campaigns
- Taking part in Global Green Co-operation
- Supporting Activities of the "Federation of Young European Greens" (FYEG)