



European Green Party/European Greens aisbl

Report 2008 - Implementation of the programme of Activities 2008

(29 April 2009)

During 2008 the European Green Party held the following activities:

A. COUNCIL MEETINGS

Two council meetings were held during 2008.

The 8th EGP council meeting “For a Green Future for Europe” took place in Ljubljana, Slovenia between 11 and 13 April in the M-Hotel and in the cultural centre called Cankarjev Dom. The council focused on the outcome of the Working Groups of Climate Change, Economy and Migration; policy documents in view of the European Elections of 2009.

The 9th EGP council meeting was held between 9 and 12 October in Montreuil/Paris, France in City Hall of Montreuil. The council was focused on result of the Working Groups of Social Policy, Gender, Human Rights and the Election Manifesto in view of the European Elections of 2009.

B. COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Five committee meetings were held in 2008:

- Brussels, 18-20 January;
- Brussels, 29 February – 2 March;
- Brussels, 30 May-1 June;
- Brussels, 5-7 September;
- Brussels, 21-23 November.

Two shorter debriefing meetings were held in conjunction with the Ljubljana and Montreuil councils. A one day committee meeting was held in conjunction with the 2nd Global Greens meeting in Sao Paolo in May.

C. EGP WORKING GROUPS

In 2008 **five** working groups have been active to prepare position papers for a common election manifesto.

Apart from email networking they had regular meetings, in Brussels as well as fringe meetings at the council meetings in Ljubljana and Montreuil/Paris.

The working group **Economy** had its last meeting in Brussels on 23th February before concluding their policy paper for the Ljubljana council meeting.

The working group **Migration** had its last meeting in Brussels on 16th February before concluding their policy paper for the Ljubljana council meeting.

The working group **Social Policy** held several meetings in Brussels on 17th May, 14th June, 14th August, and 5th September. The last meeting was a fringe meeting in Montreuil to conclude the policy paper for the council.

The working group **Foreign and Security Policy** held fringe meetings at the Ljubljana and the Montreuil council meeting.

The working group **Gender** finished the enquiry into gender balance practices within the green member parties and presented their White Book in the Montreuil Council meeting.

The expert group Health and Food Security mainly networked via email to produce a draft policy paper for the

Research

Overview of existing research information on potential green voters – Benoit Rihoux UCL

Manova research scheme for opinion polling on potential green voters for the 2009 EP elections, with a first test case in Slovenia.

EGP and Greens/EFA Group Collaboration

Philippe naar china as part of delegation of Green Group (September 2007)

Various members of the Greens in the EP participated actively in the activities of the EGP.

Several “strategy” meetings between the EGP Committee and the Green Group Bureau took place in Brussels.

At the Berlin Spring Council meeting MEPs Rebecca Harms, Milan Horacek, Michael Cramer, Frithjof Schmidt, Pierre Jonckheer, Dany Cohn-Bendit, and Claude Turmes participated.

EGP Spokesperson Philippe Lamberts joined the Greens in EP delegation to China in September.

At the Vienna Autumn Congress MEPs Pierre Jonckheer, Carl Schlyter, Eva Lichtenberger, Claude Turmes, Elisabeth Schroedter, Alain Lipietz and Raul Romeva Rueda attended.

The committee attended the Green Group retreat in October in Prague; “The Greens in Europe: 2009 perspectives” begin the main topic.

EGP and Green Ministers – back in government.

During 2007 Greens in Finland (Minister of Justice, Minister of Labour and Climate Policy expert in the Prime Minister's Office) and Ireland (Minister.....) have entered government.

Regional Networks

The Green East West Dialogue

In cooperation with Green Forum (Sweden) the GEWD has organized fact finding missions to Croatia, Albania, Moldova, Georgia and Azerbaijan.

held an "Alternative Energy Forum" in St. Petersburg in July; had its steering committee in early September in Tirana, Albania; held a meeting in Zagreb, Croatia Sept/Oct on "A Green Policy for the integration of the Balkans in the European Union" and had fringe meetings at the Helsinki Council in May and the Geneva Congress in October.

The **Mediterranean Network** had its spring meeting,

in Elba, Italy, 16-18 June on "Eco-Sustainability in the small islands of the Mediterranean". Fringe meetings were held at the Helsinki Council in May and the Geneva Congress in October. The planned meeting in Setubal, Portugal was postponed to 2007 for budgetary reasons.

The Baltic Network

Meeting in Gdansk???

Publication in Polish and in English : Green Cities

co-organised the meeting in March in Stockholm on climate change. At the end of August the network held a seminar "Oil or Fish? - Urgent actions to save the Baltic cod" in Gdynia, Poland. The network also held fringe meetings at the Helsinki council in May, where they elected a new coordinator, and at the Geneva Congress in October.

The **North Sea Greens** held fringe meetings at the Berlin and Vienna meetings.

Green Islands Network

met in fringe meetings at the Helsinki and Geneva meetings. They held a three days meeting in Belfast, Northern Ireland in July, where they developed the Memorandum of Understanding document. The purpose of the document was to establish East West as well as North South links for the Green Party of Northern Ireland with the GIN parties. GIN held another meeting in UK, Hove on 22nd September where they elected new coordinators.

Local Councilors

In November, a third local councilors meeting was hosted by the ICV Greens in Barcelona, Spain, jointly with EGP and Green Group in EP: "Greening the Streets". Over 200 people participated.

Federation of Young European Greens (FYEG)

The websites of the FYEG, the general website and the “Unity in Diversity” campaign website, were supported by the EGP as well as the publication and distribution of the FYEG newsletter EcoSprinter. The FYEG summer camp which was held for one week in July in Serbia was supported by the EGP as well as several individual meetings with member organizations, the FYEG fringe meetings at the Helsinki council meeting in May and at the Geneva congress in October and a meeting of the FYEG executive committee in Prague in November.

Individual Supporters

During the year 2007 we continued sending out news, press releases and electronic Update Flash to those individual supporters of the EGP whose electronic address has been sent to us by the member parties.

Heerlen Group

The EGP has supported some board meetings of the Heerlen Group (the European Green grassroots); their presence at the Geneva congress in October and the annual meeting in Paris in December with main topic: “Living together in cities”

European Network of Green Seniors (ENGS)

EGP supported a board meeting of the ENGS in December in Vienna.

Global Greens

Reis Kenya : Ulrike Juan Philippe and Magda (zie brief aan van haeren)

Mike feinstein to Bali (September?)and Brazil (November)

Catherine Grèze to Kenya, Columbia meeting americas and Brazil prep global greens conf,

Côte d’ivoire

Juan attended US greens meeting

Fringe meetings were held at the Helsinki council in May and at the Geneva congress in October.

November 2006: Juan Behrend and Catherine Grèze, Global Green Network coordinators visited the venue in Nairobi (Green Belt Movement) to prepare the second Global Young Greens and African Greens meeting scheduled end of January 2007.

Catherine Grèze further represented the EGP at the annual meeting of the Federation of Green Parties of the Americas in December, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Fact finding missions

In the framework of applications for observership to the EGP several committee members went to visit the applicants on fact finding missions: Moldovan Greens in August???, November; Moscow (Green Russia for observership) in March; Azerbaijan Greens (for observership) in December.

Fact finding missions to Bulgaria and Romania took place in December related to the preparations of the European Parliament elections in 2007.

Electoral Results for EGP member parties

March 2007: Estonian Greens get 7.1% and for the first time 6 MPs in National Elections
March 2007: Finnish Greens get 8.5%, 15 MPs in National Elections and 2 Ministers
May 2007: Irish Greens get 4.7%, 8 MPs in National Elections and 2 Ministers
May 2007: Scottish Greens get 4% and 2 seats in the regional parliament
June 2007: Groen!, Belgium get 6.2% and 6 MPs in National Elections.
June 2007: Ecolo, Belgium get 12.6% and 13 MPs in National Elections.
June 2007: French Greens get 3.25% and 9 MPs in National Elections.
Oct 2007: Swiss Greens get 9.6% and 21 MPs in National Elections.

Publications

During 2006, the EGP produced one edition of the publication on "Member Party Directory and Profiles".

The EGP newsletter UPDATE was published in February, April and June. After which the new committee decided not to publish printed Updates anymore. Since June an Update Flash is sent electronically on a weekly basis with Green news from Europe.

Website

As of the second half of 2006 the EGP WebPages were given a new look and converted to a Content Management System (CMS); this process took several months.

The website is updated on a daily basis and is operating on www.europeangreens.org

Staff and office situation

The office in 31 Rue Wiertz, Brussels is fully functioning: A new Secretary General was functional from June 2006.

The staff for this year is made up of

- one full time elected Secretary General;
- one full time administration;
- one three quarters time administration
- a newly hired half time communications officer from February or March 2007 onwards
- and a new full time campaign manager from mid-November 2007

Extra temporary staff : internship from xx till the end of March 2007

- A part time campaign assistant was hired for six months from Mid-January until Mid-July.
- An assistant to the Africans Green meeting (scheduled for January Nairobi 2007) was hired for one month in December.
- Also in December an interim employee was hired for three weeks to help completing the conversion to the new WebPages.