

## EGP SUPPORTERS: NETWORK IN PROGRESS - report fringe meeting EGP council Malmö, 16 October 2009

*Guidelines are what parties need, party delegates told us during the Supporters' meeting in Malmö: rules for registering Individual supporters and for participation in their Network, and guidelines for setting up Supporters' networks within parties. Their demand comes at a good moment: persuading more parties to implement the Individual Supportership is on top of Network's priority list, together with getting more grassroots activists.*

Present: Alexandra Medwedeff (Die Grünen Aus.), Marianne Saenen, Didier Coeurnelle (Écolo), Niels Fischer, Peter Alberts, Annalena Baerbock (Bündnis 90/Die Grünen), Annette Muggenthaler, Rafael F. Font (los Verdes), Lin tabak, Jos van Dijk (GroenLinks), Zuzanna Domsta (Swedish Greens).

### Purposes of the Network:

- \* Offer grassroots members of Green parties a European platform for debate, common action, and the exchange of experiences and views
- \* Facilitate cross border cooperation and campaigns, both European wide and on a regional and local scale,
- \* By doing so give European Green politics a stronger basis in (Green) society

### Priorities

As part of the EGP structures the Network has a unique opportunity to enlarge its scope in many ways. Identifying priorities and working methodically from what we have is called for now

- Parties:
  - Expand, together with EGP and Green Group in the European Parliament, the number of parties that implement the individual supportership and encourage it.
  - Prepare a set of guidelines for parties that consider implementing the individual supportership and promoting active participation, containing information about rules & structures - who decides about membership, contact persons, settling within the EGP etc. - and about best practices of and tools for the work of the individual supporters.
- Grassroots members:
  - Expand the network within the parties, by offering grassroots members concrete participation projects and space to propose their own
  - Develop guidelines for supporter networks in parties
  - Turn electronic communication tools into platforms of interactive exchange.

### Activities

The existing ones: • annual 'Heerlen' meetings, • Supporters on Tour, • site & newsletter, • cross border campaign & participation, will be improved in order to attract more participants.

- **Cross border cooperation:**

An explanation proved useful. Such cooperations are in most cases not ORGANISED by the supporters' Network – local and regional Greens are at the core – but encouraged or facilitated by it. The Network puts best practices online, collects useful dos and don'ts, and may help to establish contacts. Some good examples were provided by Alexandra Medwedeff (Austrian Greens): they regularly organise a cross border action on topics that 'concern not only our country but also South Tyrol (Italy) and Bavaria (Germany), like the plans for the Brenner Basis tunnel, or a power plant at the border of Bavaria, Tyrol and Vorarlberg. Those actions are organised on a political level and generally initiated by a general secretary or politicians from the regional parliaments, but usually activists also take part.
- Contribute to a **Green European citizens'** initiative as soon as the Lisbon Treaty comes into force  
This suggestion from the Round Table in Brussels was received with enthusiasm. Includes helping to identify an issue that 'works' in a maximum of member states, collect signatures, maybe organise local debates.
- New suggestion:  
Help to fill a new web tool on **best local practices**, launched by the Vienna Greens and linked to the 'Greens in Big Cities' initiative. At the moment only a test [front page](#) and an example from [Vienna](#) are available.

### Network Team

Kristien Lesage has to stop because of lack of time. Annette Muggenthaler and Rafael Font will look for replacement from the Hondarribia initiative.

Report : Lin Tabak