

EUROPEAN GREEN PARTY  
**COMMON MANIFESTO**

FINAL DRAFT

# 1 INTRODUCTION

2 DEAR EUROPEAN CITIZEN,

3 We European Greens have two reasons for addressing you: We want you to participate in the  
4 European Parliament elections on May 22nd-25th, 2014. And we want you to vote Green.

5 LET'S BUILD EUROPE TOGETHER - BY CHANGING WHAT'S WRONG

6 We Greens believe that Europe is our common home and our future. That future is under threat. To  
7 safeguard our common future we want to change Europe, to strengthen it. That is why we stand for  
8 more solidarity and solidity, sustainability and justice than we find in Europe today. We fight for  
9 stronger European democracy than exists today. We invite you to join us in building new European  
10 unity on this basis.

11 If we give room to populism, nationalism or economic chauvinism, then no region, no country, no  
12 part of Europe will remain or become prosperous. In a globalised world, facing the daunting social,  
13 environmental and security challenges ahead, our European answer cannot be to revert to national  
14 boundaries. Only together will we Europeans be successful. But we must set the right priorities! We  
15 need fair economic cooperation that respects our ecological responsibilities. We need solidarity  
16 within and between our nations. We need a strong democracy. We must live our values, upholding  
17 freedom and liberties domestically and internationally. The Europe we fight for is not self-satisfied,  
18 but ambitious. It refuses to condone failure in European policies. It is able to better embrace the  
19 necessary change towards more sustainability and a good life for all its people.

20 CRISIS CREATES ANXIETY AND ANGER – WE WANT TO BUILD HOPE AND SECURITY

21 Hope and security and peace, that's why so many Europeans supported the European unification  
22 project in its early years. Europe has delivered on peace. European unity freed the continent from  
23 centuries of antagonism and war. Europe inspired the removal of dictatorships and authoritarian  
24 regimes in many European countries. But more recently, Europe and its member states who still hold  
25 many important keys to European progress, have been failing many of its citizens.

26 The idea of Europe has been met with growing frustration, fear, even with anger, because in the crisis  
27 many social, democratic and economic achievements have been threatened or destroyed. At the  
28 moment, 25% of Europe's citizens are at risk of poverty and social exclusion. People are afraid.  
29 Europe is in crisis for many reasons. We have for instance allowed unacceptable risk-taking and  
30 greed by unleashing financial markets, resulting in high unemployment, stagnation, increased social  
31 division and injustice. Our economic model is not sustainable and is undermining its ability to create  
32 prosperity. The global climate conferences in the past years have demonstrated how dangerously far  
33 we are removed from avoiding catastrophic climate change. There is still not enough political will to  
34 achieve a turn-around. Short-termism and narrow lobbyist interests seem to prevail.

35 We invite you to join us in our efforts to turn anger about all this into new hope. Europe must  
36 change. Europe, indeed, needs fundamental transformation.

37 YOUR VOTE MATTERS – DON'T LET THOSE WHO WANT TO RUIN EUROPE WIN

38 We want you to join us in the fight for an economic transformation that will build future prosperity  
39 on the basis of sustainable development and a Green renaissance of our industry. Here many Green  
40 jobs can be created, constituting good and decent work, equal pay, workers' rights, increased  
41 economic mobility, regional development and better opportunities for small and medium sized  
42 enterprises or social companies. We insist on a European energy policy, which will mitigate climate

43 change: Yes to renewables and energy efficiency, no to nuclear or more coal and shale gas. All this  
44 we call a Green New Deal.

45 We Greens remain reliable advocates of environmental responsibility. Help us take a strong stance  
46 against those on the right or on the left and from the lobbies, who would rather block progress. We  
47 demand more sustainable agricultural policies and have played a strong role in reforming the EU's  
48 fisheries policy. We have consistently promoted consumer rights. Environmentalism is also a social  
49 responsibility. If we destroy the environment, we destroy the basis of our economy and well-being.

50 We Greens mobilize under the banner of social justice against social exclusion, of sustainability  
51 against austerity. We want to live our lives as men and women in which security and opportunity are  
52 not just tales from yesteryear. Here, without doubt, Europe must change direction! We want to fight  
53 against youth unemployment, against homelessness, against poverty and hopelessness. Where  
54 member states refuse or fail to deliver, together as Europeans we can overcome that. Let us  
55 strengthen social Europe.

56 We see individual emancipation, freedom and liberties for all as very much under threat. Think of  
57 private and state-organized mass surveillance or the infringement on human rights of minorities like  
58 immigrants, the LGTB+ community or the Roma. We must not tolerate hate based on race, gender,  
59 sexual orientation, on anti-semitism or anti-muslim attitudes.

60 We need a digital bill of rights. We helped defeat the dangerous "Anti-Counterfeiting Trade  
61 Agreement" (ACTA). We defended the right to water. These are fights over the very soul of Europe.

62 We Greens want to re-vitalize European democracy. Lobbyists, technocrats and populists have  
63 weakened it. The European Parliament must be strengthened and have control over the policies  
64 which the European Commission and the European Central Bank pursue within the so-called troika.  
65 Citizens must be better heard and have a more active say through direct democracy. That starts at  
66 home, by defending for instance local self-rule, where the EU has no business meddling. It includes  
67 pushing back against excessive lobbying. We also want more gender democracy: more women in  
68 Europe's institutions and in the boardrooms of EU companies. We should not shy away from sharing  
69 our sovereignty, where this is the only way of keeping it: as with the banking union, the financial  
70 transaction tax and the struggle for tax justice and against tax evasion and tax havens.

71 We Greens want the EU to pursue a policy of good neighbourliness on our borders and abroad. This  
72 includes not closing the door on enlargement. We promote global justice, fair trade, protecting  
73 human rights, civil conflict prevention and multilateral conflict solutions. Europe must be a fair haven  
74 for refugees, not fortress Europe. A Europe of global responsibility benefits the world and ourselves.

## 75 IT IS YOUR CHOICE

76 As the directly elected voice of the European citizens, the European Parliament is the joint lawmaker,  
77 together with national governments, on topics that influence your daily lives, from work safety to  
78 innovation and new jobs, from consumer protection to environmental policy, from food safety and  
79 animal protection to data privacy to gender equity. Many local and regional projects rely on financing  
80 through European funds

81 We Greens make a difference in the European Parliament. We want to continue this with greater  
82 strength. For this we need your support, your vote. Help changing Europe, vote Green!

83 YOU are Europe. Thank you for listening to us.

## 84 EUROPE NEEDS A GREEN NEW DEAL

85 The European Union in the present crisis has not been delivering on its promises to a great number  
86 of its citizens. And it has been everything but unified on how to change for the better. This is why we  
87 Greens propose to you a new strategy.

88 We Europeans should unite our strengths in order to shape our own future. That is what  
89 sovereignty means. Instead of a socially deaf and environmentally blind austerity, we propose three  
90 coherent avenues towards sustainability: re-regulating the financial industry so it serves the real  
91 economy; transforming our economies with eco-efficient solutions to innovate and to tackle climate  
92 change and environmental degradation; fighting unemployment, poverty and all forms of social  
93 injustice. We call this a European Green New Deal.

### 94 SOLIDARITY, SOLIDITY AND SUSTAINABILITY

95 We want to relieve Europe from its addiction to excessive debt. That includes bringing financial debt,  
96 be it public or private, back to sustainable levels and make sure it funds value-creating investments.  
97 This will require cases of restructuring public and private debt. Equally, we must address social debt:  
98 reducing unemployment, poverty and inequalities, improving health and education. This requires  
99 strong investment efforts. Last but not least, it requires addressing the environmental debt: tackling  
100 climate change, the exhaustion of finite resources and the erosion of biodiversity. A debt-fuelled  
101 economy is not sustainable. By becoming world leaders in inventing and delivering solutions that  
102 make a good life possible for everyone while respecting the limits of our planet, Europeans will find  
103 the key to a new economic dynamic for jobs and prosperity. We reject the so-called pact on  
104 competitiveness as this would entail wage cuts, reduction of social welfare schemes and privatization  
105 of public goods. Fiscal sustainability must go hand-in-hand with equally strong social and  
106 environmental sustainability. Austerity as imposed in the recent economic crisis takes us dramatically  
107 in the opposite direction.

### 108 LAYING THE FOUNDATION OF A SOCIAL EUROPE

109 Social justice is a fundamental value of Europe. The past thirty years have seen a rise in inequalities of  
110 income and wealth. Lack of structural reforms, missing investments for the future and the austerity  
111 policies have made things worse to the point that a growing number of Europeans are now deprived  
112 of access to even basic health services.

113 One of the key elements of injustice is widespread unemployment, particularly youth unemployment.  
114 Political measures that promise relief, such as the European Youth Guarantee Scheme will not be  
115 successful unless adequately funded and above all underpinned by a strong policy of job creation.  
116 Europe must put an end to social dumping: zero-hours contracts, mini-jobs and unfair internships.  
117 We Greens advocate fair minimum social standards in accordance with national conditions and  
118 labour market models – particularly in terms of job quality and security, of wages, of public health, of  
119 pensions. We want to move towards better portability of social benefits. We want the European  
120 Central Bank to include employment among its policy objectives. Shaping a better and more inclusive  
121 Europe also requires fighting against the spread of child-poverty and homelessness.

122 We advocate the inclusion of a social progress clause in European law. Social balance across Europe  
123 must address the threat of a brain-drain away from peripheral regions and the exploitation of migrant  
124 workers, while respecting the fundamental right to free movement. The Greens wish to see new  
125 instruments developed to mitigate larger differences in economic cycles including unemployment  
126 rates. We Greens promote the emancipation of women in society and in the economy. "Equal  
127 payment for equal work" must be a standard all over the EU, as well as equal representation of

128 women in company boards. Having a family should not be an obstacle to a successful career for both  
129 men and women.

#### 130 BRINGING FINANCIAL INDUSTRY UNDER CONTROL

131 Five years after the outset of the financial crisis, our system remains dominated by banks that are too  
132 big or too interconnected to fail and therefore too dangerous. Bank bail-outs have cost billions to  
133 the European taxpayers; this should never happen again. We want to ensure a properly sized, diverse  
134 and resilient financial sector that serves society and helps mobilizing sustainable investments in the  
135 real economy. We propose stringent rules for the separation of banking activities into those which  
136 are essential to society and those which are not. Only financial products and activities which  
137 demonstrate benefits for society must be authorized. We want to ensure consumers receive good,  
138 independent advice on all financial services.

139 We advocate a European banking union, combining a strong common oversight of our banks, a  
140 common authority and fund to restructure failing banks and a common system of insurance for  
141 deposits up to 100.000 Euro or equivalent. We Greens are proud of achievements in this domain to  
142 date: banning naked speculation on sovereign debt; curbing bankers' bonuses; forcing banks to  
143 disclose activities in tax havens; submitting the European Central Bank's banking supervision to more  
144 democratic accountability. We need to build on these successes.

#### 145 PUBLIC FINANCES: FAIR AND EFFECTIVE TAXATION

146 At the moment, the bulk of the tax burden weighs on the least privileged citizens and on the small  
147 and medium enterprises, while an estimated 1.000 billion Euro escape through evasion and fraud.  
148 Our goal is to restore tax justice and efficiency. We want to reduce the tax burden on labour and  
149 move towards taxing pollution and waste. We will do our utmost to enact a financial transaction tax  
150 despite powerful lobbies opposed to this plan. As we want large corporations and wealthy individuals  
151 to contribute their fair share, we advocate a more common European approach at corporate and  
152 wealth taxation, including minimum rates. Last but not least, we advocate a common offensive against  
153 tax evasion, tax fraud and tax havens, starting by putting an end to bank secrecy. On the expenditure  
154 side, Greens explicitly fight wasteful and ecologically harmful spending such as fossil fuel subsidies.  
155 Managing legacy public debt together, by setting up a debt redemption fund and gradually issuing  
156 common debt instruments (Eurobonds) under clearly defined and realistic common fiscal discipline  
157 rules are key moves in order to ensure the sustainability of public finances. In order to revive  
158 economies in crisis and preserve the monetary union, we advocate an increase in the EU budget,  
159 primarily funded by own resources, and the creation of financial solidarity instruments aimed at  
160 helping to finance the economic recovery.

#### 161 RISE: RENAISSANCE OF INDUSTRY FOR A SUSTAINABLE EUROPE

162 We want to transform our European economy into a global champion of energy and resource  
163 efficiency based on renewable energies instead of fossil and nuclear fuels. This Green offensive will  
164 create many good new jobs in a variety of industries. It will also enhance future competitiveness.  
165 Industry should become a key partner in this innovation-oriented Green transformation. Eco-design  
166 rules, public procurement, state aid rules, private investment, promoting small and medium sized  
167 enterprises and fighting corporate vested interests, better funding for research, development and  
168 education, promotion of entrepreneurship, good industrial relations and workplace democracy.  
169 These must all be elements of our effort. We want to strengthen workers unions and the right of  
170 workers to participate in decision-making processes. Trade policy should support a sustainable  
171 industrial renaissance in Europe. One project of particular relevance in this context will be creating a  
172 European Renewable Energy Community to help break our addiction to fossil fuels.

## 173 ONE PLANET, OUR HOME!

### 174 GETTING SERIOUS ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE ECOLOGICAL CRISIS

175 Climate change and biodiversity loss are not merely environmental problems but pose threats to  
176 societies across the world. The ecological crisis has been taken a back-seat as a result of the  
177 economic crisis but the situation is more acute and urgent solutions are needed.

178 There is no longer any doubt about man's role in causing climate change and the enormous economic  
179 and moral consequences of inaction. The planet is close to tipping point and without a dramatic  
180 change in our energy consumption and production patterns damaging climate change can become  
181 irreversible. However, the solutions are already at hand and will deliver massive economic, social and  
182 health benefits.

### 183 EUROPEAN CLIMATE LAW

184 We want a European climate law, built on existing national and regional initiatives, which means a  
185 strong judicial form with both targets and sanctions to ensure that the climate goals will be met. This  
186 will commit Europe to a path of sustainable economic transformation and away from devastating  
187 climate change. With the UN climate summit in Paris in 2015 (COP 21) hoping to deliver a binding  
188 global agreement, the clock is ticking and the EU needs to play a leading role. This means increasing  
189 its existing and outdated greenhouse gas emissions reduction target for 2020 from 20% to 30%, it  
190 also means setting a target to reduce these climate-damaging emissions by [60%] [at least 55%] from  
191 their 1990 levels by 2030. Reviving the EU's emissions trading scheme is essential to this and means  
192 setting an adequate price for CO<sup>2</sup> emissions. Businesses must be encouraged to divest from climate-  
193 damaging assets. Public subsidies for and investments in fossil fuels should be ended. We want to  
194 invest in European energy networks connecting renewable energy production in different parts of the  
195 continent, increasing energy security and cutting costs.

196 This must be backed by a coherent energy policy, prioritising energy savings and efficiency and  
197 renewable energy. This is not only essential for the EU's energy security and climate change goals, it  
198 also makes broader economic sense, as it stimulates economic activity, creates jobs and reduces  
199 Europe's dependence on costly imports of fossil fuels. Today Europe spends twice as much per year  
200 on energy imports than on research and development. We want combined energy savings of 40%  
201 over the next 15 years. Building on the success of the EU's 2020 renewable energy target, we want  
202 to ensure a target for 45% of energy to be supplied from renewable sources by 2030.

203 Nuclear power is expensive and risky and has no part to play. We will continue to say “Nuclear? No  
204 thanks!” and renew our engagement to phase-out nuclear energy in Europe while making sure this  
205 does not increase carbon emissions. We must shut down the most risky power plants immediately,  
206 end state subsidies and insist that existing operators bear full liability for the fall-out from nuclear  
207 accidents.

### 208 SUSTAINABILITY IS KEY

209 Sustainability must be put at the heart of every major economic decision. We want to see  
210 environmental and biodiversity protection and sustainable development given international priority.  
211 We propose the creation of a World Environment Organisation by combining and expanding the  
212 role of the different disjointed agencies that already exist within the United Nations. We cannot  
213 measure the quality of life only in coarse monetary terms: we need new indicators to complement  
214 and extend Gross Domestic Product as a measure of sustainable prosperity and well-being.

215 The diverse natural environment in Europe is beautiful and has a value beyond money. The Greens  
216 know that sustainable development means managing our natural resources wisely so that our  
217 children and our childrens' children will still have a viable planet to live on. We believe that you know  
218 this too and share our worries that we are living way beyond our means by consuming natural  
219 resources at a rate at which they cannot be renewed, as well as polluting our air, soil and water. We  
220 want to encourage resource re-use, repair and recycling in place of the designed-for-the-dump  
221 approach. The ultimate goal should be a closed-loop society, where waste from one sector becomes  
222 an input for another.

#### 223 PRIORITY FOR GREEN TRANSPORT

224 Aviation and road transport are major sources of greenhouse gases, air pollution and noise. Using  
225 fossil fuels for the transport sector makes the EU dependent on energy imports and exposed to  
226 rising prices. We need to shift to more sustainable and less environmentally-damaging modes like rail.  
227 Trans-European Transport Networks must prioritise rail before roads and aviation, especially for the  
228 movement of goods. Improving the energy efficiency of cars helps cutting the fuel bills of European  
229 citizens. We also want to spur innovation by making electric cars a more attractive option.

#### 230 PROTECT HEALTH AND SAFETY

231 Together with Civil Society Organizations, Greens have successfully driven the environmental and  
232 public health agendas in the European Parliament, shaping for instance safety rules for pesticides and  
233 for chemicals. The Greens are pushing hard for better controls of electronic and hazardous waste,  
234 drug and pesticide residues discharged into our water systems and the use of nanotechnology in  
235 cosmetics, medicines, food and biocides.

236 We will continue our campaign against the dangerous and damaging practice of shale gas and oil  
237 extraction by 'fracking', which can contaminate our water supplies and our environment and is of  
238 dubious short-term economic benefit. We want to establish fracking-free regions throughout Europe  
239 following the successful GMO-free model.

#### 240 FOOD NOT FUEL

241 Fuel made from food crops is not a sustainable solution to the climate, energy and poverty crisis.  
242 Feeding crops into cars has forced up food prices, resulting in land grabbing, rainforest destruction  
243 and threatens the food security of millions in the developing world.

244 We will continue to campaign for alternative, renewable, non-food sources of agro-fuels - the so-  
245 called 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> generations such as waste, wood residues and algae - with stringent climate  
246 safeguards in place. The long-term solution lies in more sustainable transport models and increased  
247 fuel efficiency for all vehicles.

#### 248 BETTER FOOD, BETTER LIVES

249 Our food chain is malfunctioning. Industrial agriculture, based on pesticides, monocultures and  
250 antibiotics, is thriving at the expense of our health, the environment and increasing animal suffering.  
251 Recurring food scandals have made consumers justifiably insecure about what we are eating and  
252 where it comes from. The diversion of food crops to fuel, combined with financial speculation on  
253 essential food commodities, has led to increased food prices and hunger worldwide. On the other  
254 hand we are consuming more and more junk food, heavy with added salts and sugars, resulting in  
255 rising levels of obesity in Europe and driving up the rate of heart disease, diabetes and cancer. We  
256 want a food revolution to change things.

257 The Greens want to promote sustainable, healthy, tasty, diverse and ethical food, not food designed  
258 simply to look good on supermarket shelves. This means encouraging local production chains,  
259 organic farming and fair trade products from developing countries. With Europe throwing away 90  
260 million tons of food annually, we also want action to cut down food waste.

## 261 GREENING AGRICULTURE

262 We need to make our farming climate-smart, sustainable and ethical. The European Parliament now  
263 has equal responsibility for the EU's Common Agricultural Policy but the recent reform of the CAP  
264 was a missed opportunity for creating a sustainable, non-polluting model of agriculture and rural  
265 development. We need a system which allows for a much fairer distribution of public funds, including  
266 more support for small farmers, for local production and sale, and for organic production. We need  
267 to increase soil fertility and eliminate harmful export subsidies. We need to move away from  
268 industrial farming.

269 We oppose the further privatisation of seeds and plant material in EU rules on seeds. We will  
270 continue our campaign for fair and unrestricted access to plant breeding material and against the  
271 patenting of plants and animals.

## 272 NO TO GMOs

273 The Greens have been consistent in our opposition to genetically-modified organisms in food and  
274 farming and in our support for a GMO-free Europe. We will continue to lead the fight against  
275 cultivating GMOs here, for GM-free food and for a ban on importing GMOs for animal feedstuffs.  
276 We must insist on the right to continue to make our own rules.

277 Biodiversity loss and excessive pesticide use has meant habitat destruction and led to a massive  
278 decline in bee and other insect populations, meaning the natural chain of pollination is damaged. If we  
279 want healthy local fruit and vegetables, we must 'give bees a chance'.

## 280 MORE FISH IN THE SEAS

281 The Greens have played a lead role in pushing for a more sustainable Common Fisheries Policy. The  
282 policy of throwing unwanted fish back into the sea was a massive waste of food and income and will  
283 now be curtailed. Fish stocks will be better managed and the capacity of the fishing fleet better  
284 regulated. You will now be able to see not only where your fish came from but how it was caught.  
285 Much remains to be done to implement these reforms and ensure loopholes are not exploited. We  
286 will continue to fight for better controls over intensive fish farming, which is highly polluting and for  
287 fairer treatment for small-scale, local fishing inside and outside Europe.

## 288 ANIMAL PROTECTION

289 We are well known for our commitment to animal protection and our MEPs are at the forefront of  
290 moves in the European Parliament to provide ever increasing standards of well-being for all sentient  
291 beings. The Greens have led the fight against animal testing under EU legislation and will continue to  
292 do so. We want to dramatically reduce animal transport times and to end live animal exports. At  
293 international level, the EU must be more energetic in combatting wildlife trafficking, protecting  
294 marine mammals and defending its ban on seal products.

## 295 EUROPE IN THE WORLD

296 The EU has often been a reluctant player in global politics, reacting more than acting. We want the  
297 EU to establish a value-driven common foreign policy and to play an important international role,  
298 promoting global justice and solidarity, peace, and the defence of global common goods. We want  
299 the EU to have a common voice on foreign and security policy. The EU should pursue strong and fair  
300 partnerships with countries of the global south, aiming at reducing inequalities within and between  
301 societies through development cooperation. The EU and its partners need to work together to find  
302 answers to problems like climate change, nuclear proliferation and regional conflicts around the  
303 world. That cooperation will not be credible if it is not democratic, accountable, transparent, and  
304 based on universal principles. We want the EU to support a multilateral global governance,  
305 strengthening and reforming the role of the UN, the rule of law and the responsibility to protect.  
306 Priority must always be given to civilian conflict management.

## 307 HUMAN RIGHTS

308 Following Green pressure, an EU Special Representative for Human Rights was appointed to enhance  
309 the visibility of the European Union's human rights policy.

310 We must live up to our promises on human rights when we are asked to help with disaster relief.  
311 This includes a strong commitment to the basic humanitarian principles: humanity, impartiality,  
312 independence and neutrality. The EU must become more efficient, more vocal in the defence of the  
313 rule of law, freedom and human rights, including socio-economic, environmental rights within and  
314 outside its borders.

315 On the Millennium Development Goals, which include the fight against poverty, hunger,  
316 environmental destruction and exclusion of women, Europe has not done enough. That must be a  
317 motivation to support strong new sustainability goals. We urge member states to fulfil their  
318 commitments to giving 0.7 % of GDP in development aid. The EU should mainstream human rights in  
319 its external policies, including trade.

## 320 PEACE POLICY

321 The EU was created to ensure peace after devastating wars. Today it must contribute to ensuring  
322 peace not only in Europe but throughout the world. Greens want to promote non-violence and a  
323 culture of cooperation. The EU has played and can continue to play an important role in conflict  
324 prevention, civil conflict-resolution, peacebuilding and peacekeeping. It must help developing pillars of  
325 peace by promoting freedom and eradicating poverty and by increasing mutual understanding  
326 between cultures. Greens have won a much larger EU budget to be spend on peace-building through  
327 the Instrument for Stability and Peace. We have also supported the idea of an EU Peace Corps and  
328 the creation of a Peace Institute. We are opposed to financing military research from the EU budget  
329 to the development of European drones and to Europe being a nuclear warehouse. We will continue  
330 to fight for nuclear disarmament (Global Zero).

331 European arms trade with the Middle and the Far East is exporting insecurity to these regions.  
332 Greens want to cut down this trade and prevent such exports including surveillance technology  
333 where they could be used against freedom movements and civic protest.

## 334 ASYLUM AND MIGRATION POLICY

335 Mankind has always been migrating and will continue to do so. Although 200.000 UN refugees need  
336 to be resettled every year only half of them find a new home; only 4.500 are resettled in Europe

337 (80.000 per year in the USA). Greens oppose the restrictive system that the EU and its member  
338 states now have imposed. Thousands of people die on Europe’s external borders every year and we  
339 have a duty to ensure that these people get protection. The EU’s FRONTEX agency must be forced  
340 to live up to human rights standards: we need a revision of its whole mandate to include “rescues at  
341 sea”. We demand a fundamental revision of the Dublin III regulation so that asylum seekers are able  
342 to choose in which country they want to apply for asylum. Therefore then member states need to  
343 adopt a shared responsibility. Instead of closing itself off, the EU needs to combine its refugee and  
344 immigration policy with its development, foreign trade and human rights policy. We need to create  
345 more legal and safe routes to the EU and humanitarian visas should be implemented. We suggest a  
346 pact with countries on the Mediterranean Sea to avoid more human dramas and deaths.

347 We Greens have been successful in our fight for the creation of an EU Joint Resettlement  
348 Programme as well as for funds for emergency resettlement of refugees that are facing a  
349 humanitarian crisis situation such as those living in camps in Syria: there is money available for  
350 resettlement of refugees in the EU and EU member states must use it and help the United Nations to  
351 resettle as many refugees as possible, even if temporarily.

## 352 CLIMATE CHANGE

353 For many years the European Union has played a positive role in international climate negotiations,  
354 but recently, this role has vanished. It is one of our prime Green foreign policy concerns to make  
355 Europe once again a leading actor against climate change and environmental degradation. Climate  
356 change already causes damage and suffering all over the world. Many people have to leave their land  
357 and become climate refugees, because of desertification, soil erosion, heavy rainfalls or rising sea  
358 levels. We want to see the concept of climate refugees incorporated into international law. The EU  
359 must therefore play a leading role on climate migration in international institutions and at home. It  
360 must enhance its support for climate mitigation and adaptation. Climate financing plays a key role for  
361 developing countries and we Greens will hold the EU to its promises and its responsibility.

## 362 NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICY AND ENLARGEMENT

363 Europe has to play a vital role in its direct neighbourhood in order to strengthen stability and  
364 democracy. This is why we Greens stick to the policy of EU enlargement and want to strengthen the  
365 Eastern Partnership and specifically our engagement towards countries like Ukraine, Georgia and  
366 Moldova. This means asserting itself as a principled and honest partner with our neighbours. The EU  
367 should work with civil society, granting asylum and support to defenders of freedom and democracy  
368 and granting scholarships to the youth of our neighbouring countries.

369 We want the EU to focus on the transformation of the neighbourhood in the Mediterranean and in  
370 Eastern Europe. We support an EU accession perspective for all the countries of the Western  
371 Balkans and will not exclude any European country from possible future accession, provided they  
372 fulfil the membership criteria. We want to speed up fair and credible negotiations with Turkey.  
373 Moreover, the EU should strengthen its partnerships with other existing regional organisations from  
374 Africa, South-East Asia and Latin America.

## 375 INTERNATIONAL TRADE RELATIONS

376 In trade the EU is a global power. The European Parliament plays an important role in Europe’s trade  
377 relations, because it can veto trade agreements, as it did for ACTA. But we need more transparency  
378 for the European Parliament during trade negotiations. We Greens are in favour of a multilateral  
379 trade order. Trade must be fair. Trade should support, not hinder, the development of poorer

380 countries and the transition to a green, social, equitable and democratic development model. This  
381 includes opening EU markets for less developed countries, to substantially reform the WTO to make  
382 it more development-friendly and to subordinate trade rules to human rights, social and  
383 environmental rights.

384 Presently, many bilateral EU trade deals are being negotiated, in particular the Transatlantic Trade  
385 and Investment Partnership (TTIP) agreement with the United States. Greens contest the lack of  
386 transparency of these negotiations, where important democratic choices are on the agenda. Greens  
387 not only defend our environmental, health, agriculture and food, consumer and labour standards,  
388 public interests and data protection but also the possibility to strengthen them to implement the  
389 Green New Deal. We oppose biotech products marketed in the US being automatically approved for  
390 the EU. We draw clear red lines against any weakening of EU legislation. We refuse to allow private  
391 companies to sue democratically elected governments in order to protect corporate interests against  
392 social or environmental reforms. We will mobilize against any trade agreement that does not honour  
393 these principles.

## 394 FOR A MORE VIGOROUS DEMOCRACY

395 More democracy, not less, is the answer to the crisis. We believe that a shift towards more citizen's  
396 participation, accountability and transparency is crucial to gain legitimacy for future European  
397 cooperation. This means that we Greens are working for increased transparency in the entire  
398 decision-making process from the Commission via other EU-institutions to member state  
399 governments. But this also means more: the right of citizens to determine the future of the Union by  
400 their choices in the law-making and policy-making procedures.

### 401 CITIZENS AS EUROPEAN DECISION MAKERS

402 We want to strengthen your opportunities to influence decisions. We want to work for more  
403 participatory democracy. Greens helped introduce the European Citizens' Initiative. It is time to take  
404 the next step. We want to make it more substantial by, for example, giving citizens the opportunity  
405 to put forward suggestions on all questions that the European Commission can deal with. In order to  
406 strengthen democracy we also want to create a legal basis for EU-wide referenda.

407 Where citizens are being deprived of their rights in an EU member state without remedy from that  
408 country's judicial system they should have the possibility of taking collective legal action in the EU's  
409 Court of Justice.

### 410 STRENGTHEN THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTS

411 By choosing the Members of the European Parliament, citizens have a say on how many crucial issues  
412 of our times will be tackled, from climate change to bank regulation, from the refugees' crises to  
413 youth unemployment. We want to give the European Parliament also a stronger role in EU crisis  
414 management and economic policy making. We want to lower the voting age to 16 for the European  
415 parliament and the option of introducing lists of transnational candidates.

416 The growing influence handed to the European Parliament by the Lisbon Treaty must be exercised  
417 responsibly and not undermined by lobby interests. In the Council of the European Union, as well,  
418 more transparency and accountability is needed.

419 To get a broader and more open debate it is necessary that the national parliaments take more  
420 responsibility by imposing better control over governments' actions in European affairs. We also  
421 want to extend the national parliaments' opportunities to react when the EU exceeds its authority by  
422 not following the rules on subsidiarity. National parliaments should also have more avenues of  
423 cooperation with the European Parliament.

### 424 FIGHT CORRUPTION AND FRAUD

425 The EU needs a stronger anticorruption policy and more effective instruments against organized  
426 crime. Reduced corruption is necessary to strengthen democracy and the rule of law, but also to  
427 strengthen competitiveness in the European economy. Corrupt behavior by EU officials or  
428 parliamentarians in their relations with lobbyists must be met with very strong reactions. Big business  
429 is still influencing the commission too much. Almost 80% of all stakeholders appointed by the  
430 commission represent corporate interests, despite commitment to change. A regulation must be  
431 enforced also to tackle the problem of "revolving doors" where high bureaucrats and politicians in  
432 European institutions join private organizations which they were responsible for regulating. We want  
433 to safeguard democracy from corruption by demanding transparency about the financing of political  
434 parties, candidates and election campaigns. The EU needs to take the lead in this field by making  
435 robust rules safeguarding the transparency of the financing of national political parties and candidates

436 contesting an election for the European Parliament. We want to provide the Court of Justice of the  
437 EU and the European Court of Auditors with stronger tools to control the way in which the EU  
438 resources are spent and to act against corruption both within the EU institutions and in the case of  
439 serious problems within the member states.

#### 440 MORE OWN RESOURCES FOR THE EU BUDGET

441 The EU-budget must be based much more strongly on a system of own resources to reduce the  
442 dependency on national contributions. The common interest is too often overlooked in negotiations  
443 between governments. Greens have been fighting a tough fight for greater accountability and  
444 transparency in budget-making. We are also suggesting more participation too: citizens could be  
445 given the right to sign up for pilot-project initiatives to be approved by the Budget committee of the  
446 European Parliament.

#### 447 A DIGITAL BILL OF RIGHTS

448 The Greens in the European Parliament are at the forefront of the fight for digital rights. We helped  
449 stop the ACTA-treaty and we fight for a strong European data protection law and strict net  
450 neutrality. Now is the right time to go all the way and take civic rights into the digital age. Your  
451 personal data should belong to you, not to companies or governments. Your privacy must be  
452 respected. The data retention law, which obliges telecom providers to store data about whom you  
453 communicate with, is a serious mistake and must be abolished. Governments have to abide by their  
454 own laws. Whilst national security is important, personal freedoms and liberties must not be  
455 overridden.

#### 456 UPHOLD THE RULE OF LAW

457 The Union is founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the  
458 rule of law and respect for human rights. Greens do not compromise on human rights. Pluralism,  
459 nondiscrimination, tolerance, justice, solidarity and equality between women and men must prevail.  
460 There is a great lack of women in EU institutions. Democracy means that women participate on  
461 equal terms. In many member states equal rights for LGTB+ citizens are still not guaranteed. We  
462 Greens will push for effective anti-discrimination policies to overcome such injustice.

463 For our democratic rights to be upheld and recognized, we need to keep the integrity of the rule of  
464 law both at the EU and national level. The EU lacks effective monitoring and sanctioning tools when  
465 there are violations of our values in the member states. This is why we have been pioneers in  
466 demanding the creation of a Copenhagen Commission in accordance with the EU treaties and the  
467 European Convention on Human Rights to make sure that the democratic demands that are put  
468 upon candidate countries when applying to EU accession are not followed by backsliding into  
469 authoritarianism and cronyism once a Member-state is already in the EU. The current limitations to  
470 the Charter of Fundamental Rights should be abrogated so that the impressive list of guarantees and  
471 protections for citizens will apply in practice where citizens live.

#### 472 A GREEN DEMOCRATIC REFORM OF THE EU

473 Democracy is never finished or complete. Climate change and globalization are two challenges that  
474 have to be met by improved common decision-making. European Greens are convinced, that the  
475 current EU institutional setting is not up to what the EU faces. The development of the Eurozone  
476 and the banking union means we need adequate democratic reforms which strengthen the European  
477 Institutions.

478 Our proposals for more democracy, more transparency and more accountability at the EU level  
479 require clear changes in the functioning of the EU. The European Parliament should have the right to  
480 initiate legislation. It needs more legislative co-decision powers while national veto-rights should be  
481 diminished. Some decisions must, on the other hand, be taken much closer to the citizens.

482 Europe cannot just wait for the EU heads of state and government to take limited initiatives that will  
483 only lead to more technocratic control. A most simple example: The European Parliament wants a  
484 single seat and to stop the travelling circus between Brussels and Strasbourg. We Greens share that  
485 demand, as do most European citizens. But the European Council just does not listen.

486 Europe needs a fresh effort towards integration. Therefore we want a new democratic Convention  
487 that will determine the future of European integration, a Convention with strong parliamentary and  
488 civil society participation. Its procedure must be fully transparent and democratic. European citizens  
489 should have a final say through an EU-wide referendum.