

1 **TOWARDS 2019: Let us move Europe!**

2
3

4 The challenges that are confronting our societies and our political systems today are
5 extraordinarily complex and difficult. The last decades were marked by the peace,
6 freedom, democracy the process of European unification had brought to the people in
7 Europe. We gained many liberties in our daily lives: the European integration gave us
8 the possibility to travel without borders, live and work where we want. Important steps
9 towards greener economy and society have been taken and are underway; the
10 transformation of our energy systems towards renewables and out of fossils and
11 nuclear is a possible and realistic perspective. Green parties throughout Europe have
12 contributed immensely to this progress. But we are in the middle of a fourfold
13 revolution.

14
15 We are, de facto, in the middle of a fourfold revolution. The changes that disruptive
16 technological developments are effecting are profound and it is still not possible to
17 fully envision their scope. A major and fundamental re-shuffle of international
18 economic and political power relations is under way and it undermines the established
19 international order with contradictory effects. Climate change, which the international
20 community pledged at the Paris conference 2015 to reign in, is already an
21 uncontested reality, which everybody can observe by paying attention to the increase
22 of extreme and deadly weather situations. Our democratic political systems are under
23 attack from an international wave of authoritarianism, from nativist, racist, xenophobic
24 and other extreme right movements trying to feed off popular dissatisfaction and
25 rebellion against injustices and threats inherent in the present type of globalization.

26
27 European Greens have always stood for a politics of progressive change. That means
28 our convictions have placed us clearly on the side of change in favour of
29 environmental and social responsibility, on freedom and democracy and of openness
30 to the world. In the last European elections our slogan was: "Change Europe, vote
31 Green". ~~But under the present circumstances in many cases the people fear change as~~
32 ~~much as they strive for it. Today t~~There is also a widespread scramble for security, for
33 safety, for protection against being exposed to the dangerous winds that are blowing.
34 ~~Therefore "change" is not a self-explanatory political goal anymore. Maybe it never~~
35 ~~was, but certainly~~Under the present circumstances in many cases the people fear
36 change as much as they strive for it, therefore in the present societal and political
37 climate our politics of change and hope must also address the security issue. We need
38 to advance economic balance and social justice as alternatives to fear-mongering
39 right-wing politics, to restore the confidence and trust of the people on the outskirts of
40 our societies. We cannot afford to leave the less well off feeling unappreciated and
41 unattended for. A Green change towards a socially and ecologically sustainable world

42 | is essential for a secure society. We can and will do that because Green policies
43 advocate a kind of change that implies more protection. The changes we advocate
44 defy the illusion that security can be achieved by returning to the social, economic and
45 political order of the more or less distant past. Quite to the contrary, if we do not
46 change what has to be changed there will be no chance of holding on to what has to
47 be defended: solidarity, freedom, justice, democracy, rule of law, environmental
48 responsibility.

49
50 Our battles for a better future will be more successful the better we coordinate them
51 as a European Green family and the more we find successful ways of building
52 alliances with others that share our values and that we can team up with to fight for
53 our goals. We strive for a strengthened and united Europe and as European Green
54 family we are among the driving forces in the current debate about the future of the
55 European Union. Our vision of Europe is the vision of a Europe that respects diversity,
56 protects its citizens, empowers them and fosters self-determination and guarantees to
57 work tirelessly towards the environmental transformations that we owe to the next
58 generations and to the whole world.

59
60 In the pursuit of this vision we will strengthen our cooperation and focus on the big
61 | issues that Europe has to get right. The first and most important being These include
62 the fight against climate change, for biodiversity and for a fundamental green
63 economic transformation; the fight for a better economic balance within Europe and
64 within our societies, for economic opportunities and social justice, against austerity
65 and against lobbyist control; the fight against tax evasion; the fight for democracy at
66 all levels including the European one, and for upholding the rule of law, for the
67 protection of minorities under threat and for equal opportunity; the fight for more
68 equality between all gender and sexual identities; the fight to enhance foreign and
69 domestic security while strongly opposing selfish defense corporation interests and
70 reliably defending civil rights at home as well as our shared values of sustainability,
71 peace and international justice globally; and, not least, the fight to empower all ages
72 and notably young people to shape their future.

73
74 To play an effective role in all these dimensions of European reality European Greens
75 must address existing divisions between East and West, North and South, the growing
76 social divide that is in danger of being entrenched through unaddressed negative
77 consequences of globalisation and digitizationthe digital revolution. We have to deal
78 | with cultural, religious, gender and ethnic divisions. While status quo politics ignores or
79 downplays the divisions and while authoritarian populists try to exploit them for their
80 own ends, Greens combine a reliable defense of progressive achievements in our
81 societies and in the EU with a keen criticism of injustices and divisions and a realistic
82 attitude of providing new solutions on the basis of our ideals. We pursue a policy of

83 inclusion that seek to grant everybody the social guarantees, the respect and the
84 participatory opportunities to raise their voices and be heard which we owe to each
85 other as citizens of our home country, of Europe and of the world.

86
87 We need to develop our continent in relation to the global community. As the United
88 States is retreating from its global position, we must be the driving force for fair trade,
89 global social justice, and the fight against climate change in all international
90 organisations and agreements.

91
92 We need to tackle the root causes of forced migration such as climate change,
93 poverty, and hopelessness, while providing refugees safe haven from discrimination,
94 racism and violence. Drastic measures are needed to empower our neighbouring
95 societies with economic, educational, and social collaboration to prevent further
96 societal collapse.

97
98 Green politics is not built on unconnected silo policies, but on a comprehensive
99 approach that is defining the Green family as movement-oriented, supporting diverse,
100 progressive movements whether on the streets or inside institutions, whether in
101 defense of groups put under threat or in cooperation with economic actors that are
102 willing to join us in this formidable challenge and opportunity that is this share the
103 burden of the necessary green transformation; as dialogue-oriented willing to listen to
104 citizens and to answer to their concerns without being selective and without ignoring
105 voices that do not necessarily share all our values yet; as willing to offer an orientation
106 for the renewal of our societies guided by a sense of responsibility and led by a strong
107 will to join forces with those that would share our commitment in favour of
108 transformation along the sustainable development goals that we all have subscribed
109 to.

110
111 European Greens are not as strong presently as we have been in the past. We need to
112 strengthen our voice and presence especially considering that our priorities and
113 proposals are more and more recognised in our societies and necessary to answer the
114 challenges we face. In some countries we are very successful while in others we lack
115 the strength and success which we would all cherish. One of our answers in this
116 situation is to learn from each other, to learn from each other's successes and from
117 each other's failures. Of particular relevancy is every effort to share practical
118 experience from specific work on the ground, in our municipalities, in our regions
119 because in the end all green politics is also local, and if we can't convince our
120 neighbours, we can't convince our the wider populationnations. A second approach is
121 to open up for new thinking, new partnerships, new people and new ways of doing
122 politics. Without a continuous opening-up, green parties can be endangered of looking
123 stale and exhausted. Thirdly, we have to identify the areas and issues where we need

124 | new discussions: ~~digitization~~the digital revolution, to mention just one example, is
125 | radically transforming all aspects of our reality. How can we avoid that it sweeps away
126 | in the process all the social protections, all the divisions of power, all the limits to
127 | corporate over-bearing, all the individual freedoms and democratic guarantees? How
128 | can we develop and strengthen new forms of solidarity? How do we strengthen and
129 | deepen the European Monetary Union? How do we re-visit trade in our day and age
130 | preventing globalization from continuing to tilt social and political orders to the
131 | interest of the 0,1%? How do we successfully fight corruption to defend democracy?
132 | How can we transform our engagement with the refugee movement into a practically
133 | consequential engagement for fairness in international relations? How can we play a
134 | role as Europeans in world-wide efforts to push back against emerging new power
135 | antagonisms and to defend a rules-based multilateral international order?
136 | Our Green goal for the European elections 2019 is to elect more MEPs from more
137 | countries. We want to demonstrate that Green politics has grown roots in all the
138 | corners of Europe. In this context, we are also willing to team up with partners for
139 | alliance-based candidacies wherever that is promising and possible. In this way we
140 | can strive to be successful even in countries where Greens alone might be too weak
141 | for electoral victories yet. European Greens feel a high level of responsibility for the
142 | future of our citizens, our countries, the European Union and the international
143 | community. We will cooperate in the best way possible EU-wide to turn this
144 | engagement into a success in the 2019 elections. We must be able to communicate
145 | our Green solutions to all people living in Europe, earn their trust, and convince them to
146 | vote for a Green change.