

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

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4 The challenges that are confronting our societies and our political systems today are
5 extraordinarily complex and difficult. We are, de facto, in the middle of a fourfold
6 revolution. The changes that disruptive technological developments are effecting are
7 profound and it is still not possible to fully envision their scope. A major and
8 fundamental re-shuffle of international economic and political power relations is under
9 way and it undermines the established international order with contradictory effects.
10 Climate change, which the international community pledged at the Paris conference
11 2015 to reign in, is already an uncontestable reality, which everybody can observe by
12 paying attention to the increase of extreme and deadly weather situations. Our
13 democratic political systems are under attack from an international wave of
14 authoritarianism, from nativist, racist, xenophobic and other extreme right movements
15 trying to feed off popular dissatisfaction and rebellion against injustices and threats
16 inherent in the present type of globalization.

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18 European Greens have always stood for a politics of progressive change. That means
19 our convictions have placed us clearly on the side of change in favour of
20 environmental and social responsibility, on freedom and democracy and of openness
21 to the world. In the last European elections our slogan was: "Change Europe, vote
22 Green". But under the present circumstances in many cases the people fear change as
23 much as they strive for it. There is a widespread scramble for security, for safety, for
24 protection against being exposed to the dangerous winds that are blowing. Therefore
25 "change" is not a self-explanatory political goal anymore. Maybe it never was, but
26 certainly in the present societal and political climate our politics of change and hope
27 must also address the security issue. We can and will do that because Green policies
28 advocate a kind of change that implies more protection. The changes we advocate
29 defy the illusion that security can be achieved by returning to the social, economic and
30 political order of the more or less distant past. Quite to the contrary, if we do not
31 change what has to be changed there will be no chance of holding on to what has to
32 be defended: solidarity, freedom, justice, democracy, rule of law, environmental
33 responsibility.

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35 Our battles for a better future will be more successful the better we coordinate them
36 as a European Green family and the more we find successful ways of building
37 alliances with others that share our values and that we can team up with to fight for
38 our goals. Our vision of Europe is the vision of a Europe that respects diversity,
39 protects its citizens, empowers them and fosters self-determination and guarantees to
40 work tirelessly towards the environmental transformations that we owe to the next
41 generations and to the whole world.

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43 In the pursuit of this vision we will strengthen our cooperation and focus on the big
44 issues that Europe has to get right. These include the fight against climate change, for
45 biodiversity and for a fundamental green economic transformation; the fight for a
46 better economic balance within Europe and within our societies, for economic
47 opportunities and social justice, against austerity and against lobbyist control; the fight
48 against tax evasion; the fight for democracy at all levels including the European one,
49 and for upholding the rule of law, for the protection of minorities under threat and for
50 equal opportunity; the fight to enhance foreign and domestic security while strongly
51 opposing selfish defense corporation interests and reliably defending civil rights at
52 home as well as our shared values of sustainability, peace and international justice
53 globally; and, not least, the fight to empower young people to shape their future.

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55 To play an effective role in all these dimensions of European reality European Greens
56 must address existing divisions between East and West, North and South, the growing
57 social divide that is in danger of being entrenched through unaddressed negative
58 consequences of globalisation and digitization. We have to deal with cultural, religious
59 and ethnic divisions. While status quo politics ignores or downplays the divisions and
60 while authoritarian populists try to exploit them for their own ends, Greens combine a
61 reliable defense of progressive achievements in our societies and in the EU with a
62 keen criticism of injustices and divisions and a realistic attitude of providing new
63 solutions on the basis of our ideals. We pursue a policy of inclusion that seek to grant
64 everybody the social guarantees, the respect and the participatory opportunities to
65 raise their voices and be heard which we owe to each other as citizens of our home
66 country, of Europe and of the world.

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68 Green politics is not built on unconnected silo policies, but on a comprehensive
69 approach that is defining the Green family as movement-oriented, supporting diverse,
70 progressive movements whether on the streets or inside institutions, whether in
71 defense of groups put under threat or in cooperation with economic actors that are
72 willing to share the burden of the necessary green transformation; as dialogue-
73 oriented willing to listen to citizens and to answer to their concerns without being
74 selective and without ignoring voices that do not necessarily share all our values yet;
75 as willing to offer an orientation for the renewal of our societies guided by a sense of
76 responsibility and led by a strong will to join forces with those that would share our
77 commitment in favour of transformation along the sustainable development goals that
78 we all have subscribed to.

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80 European Greens are not as strong presently as we have been in the past. In some
81 countries we are very successful while in others we lack the strength and success
82 which we would all cherish. One of our answers in this situation is to learn from each



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83 other, to learn from each other's successes and from each other's failures. Of
84 particular relevancy is every effort to share practical experience from specific work on
85 the ground, in our municipalities, in our regions because in the end all green politics is
86 also local, and if we can't convince our neighbours, we can't convince our nations. A
87 second approach is to open up for new thinking, new partnerships, new people and
88 new ways of doing politics. Without a continuous opening-up, green parties can be
89 endangered of looking stale and exhausted. Thirdly, we have to identify the areas and
90 issues where we need new discussions: digitization, to mention just one example, is
91 radically transforming all aspects of our reality. How can we avoid that it sweeps away
92 in the process all the social protections, all the divisions of power, all the limits to
93 corporate over-bearing, all the individual freedoms and democratic guarantees? How
94 can we develop and strengthen new forms of solidarity? How do we re-visit trade in
95 our day and age preventing globalization from continuing to tilt social and political
96 orders to the interest of the 0,1%? How do we successfully fight corruption to defend
97 democracy? How can we transform our engagement with the refugee movement into
98 a practically consequential engagement for fairness in international relations? How
99 can we play a role as Europeans in world-wide efforts to push back against emerging
100 new power antagonisms and to defend a rules-based multilateral international order?
101 Our Green goal for the European elections 2019 is to elect more MEPs from more
102 countries. We want to demonstrate that Green politics has grown roots in all the
103 corners of Europe. In this context, we are also willing to team up with partners for
104 alliance-based candidacies wherever that is promising and possible. In this way we
105 can strive to be successful even in countries where Greens alone might be too weak
106 for electoral victories yet. European Greens feel a high level of responsibility for the
107 future of our citizens, our countries, the European Union and the international
108 community. We will cooperate in the best way possible EU-wide to turn this
109 engagement into a success in the 2019 elections.