

## Draft resolution regarding non-EU membership fees

Tabled by the EGP Committee

The 35<sup>th</sup> EGP Council, Riga, 3-5 June 2022, decides:

1. to rescind the decision taken by the EGP Council in Tampere on 10 November 2019 as part of the Activity Plan 2020 in the section on Global Greens: “The Committee proposes to mandate our non-EU Member Parties to cover the EGP contribution to the Global Greens in accordance with their financial obligations as members of the EGP. Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) will be developed.”
2. not to raise membership fees from non-EU member parties to the EGP in 2022. It therefore rescinds the decision taken by the online EGP Council on 4 December 2021 regarding the individual membership fees 2022 for the non-EU member parties as part of the overall vote on the membership fees to EGP for 2022. The voting rights of the non-EU member parties at the Council and Congress remain unaffected.

### Justification

#### Regarding point 1.

The need to act on the 2020 membership fees to the EGP from non-EU member parties arose from the fact that “[t]he new (2020) EP rules on financing European political parties will affect the way we can contribute financially to the Global Greens.”, as explained in the Activity Plan 2020. In particular, European political parties (EUPPs) were forbidden to receive any financial contributions from their non-EU member parties; this legal interpretation was enforced by the Authority and subsequently confirmed by the European Court of Justice in 2020.

In December 2021, as part of their audit for the year 2020, the Authority for the European Political Parties and Foundations, the body supervising finances and compliance of the EUPPs and EUPFs, categorised the payment mechanism adopted by Council in Tampere in November 2019 as in breach with Regulation 1141/2014 on the Registration and Funding of European Political parties. The Authority argued that this payment mechanism constituted a breach of the Regulation in that it leads to an indirect financial benefit for the EGP. With the non-EU member parties paying the membership fee to the Global Greens, these parties take up a financial obligation from the EGP.

Based on this assessment, the Authority demanded three ‘corrective measures’:

- a) The payment of a sanction fee to the European Parliament, equivalent to the financial benefit the EGP had from this mechanism for 2019 and 2020 (20.790 EUR in total),
- b) Annulment of the Council decision mentioned in the Activity Plan 2020,
- c) Termination of all MOUs concluded with our non-EU member parties regarding fee payment.



The Committee decided to accept the sanction fee. Committee is proposing to Council to rescind the relevant part of the Activity Plan 2020 quoted above, which had been adopted at the Autumn Council 2019.

If Council decides to rescind its earlier decision, the MoUs which the EGP concluded with its non-EU member parties after the Tampere Council decision regarding their payment of the EGP membership fees will be terminated. Member parties will receive a written termination letter.

Regarding point 2.

As we are not allowed to receive financial contributions from outside the EU, the decision to raise membership fees for 2022 from our non-EU member parties has to be annulled. Legally there is no other option.

We bring this proposal to the Council related only to the year 2022. Trialogue negotiations (between European Parliament, Commission and Council) about the future status of non-EU political parties is ongoing. It is fully open at this point what the final settlement will look like.