



To the delegates of the 27<sup>th</sup> EGP council in Karlstad, 26 November 2017

Subject: comment on the proposal of the committee to withdraw membership of De Groenen

Utrecht/Amsterdam, November 16, 2017

Dear delegates the council in Karlstad,

The committee proposed the council August 24<sup>th</sup> to withdraw full membership of De Groenen. This will be up for a vote at the upcoming council and needs three quarters of the allocated votes. We provide you here in writing our view on this proposal so you can make an informed decision.

First of all do we consider the proposal unfounded because in our view De Groenen complies with all requirements of membership. We elaborate this in our *Comment on the allegations of the committee*. We prepared this comment originally for the conciliation panel. We publish it for the convenience of the delegates at our website<sup>1</sup>. We documented our comment with 23 annexes which are available at the same page.

Secondly most of the allegations the committee makes in their proposal lack any proof. We invited the committee September 12<sup>th</sup> to substantiate her claims and requested copies of their sources but the committee refused to provide them to us.

A large part of the reasoning of the proposal of the committee has to do with a dysfunctional board of De Groenen. This has been resolved by the congress of De Groenen of September 23<sup>rd</sup> which elected a new board consisting of Rijndert Doting as chair and Otto ter Haar as member. This has been recognised by the Chamber of Commerce<sup>2</sup> and the Electoral Council of the Netherlands<sup>3</sup>.

Another part of the reasoning of the committee has to do with the difference in electoral performance between the other member party from the Netherlands GroenLinks and De Groenen. With all due respect for the success of GroenLinks this has nothing to do with the requirements of membership and should not be taken into account at all.

Thirdly we want to bring to your attention that we have had and still have a couple of issues with the committee. This regards the following issues:

1. demanding participation fees from delegates, which according to us is a violation of the Belgian law of 1921 as referred to in article 2.1 of the statutes;
2. the too large and unjustified difference in treatment of delegates who are expected by the committee to pay €120 out of their pocket and committee members who receive an allowance of €200 a day for participating in the council;
3. the exclusion of the Green Party of the United States (GPUS) from a forum organised by the Foreign Affairs Working Group about transatlantic relations after the election of President Trump;<sup>45</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.degroenen.nl/karlstad.html>

<sup>2</sup> [http://degroenen.nl/karlstad/Annex 5 - 20170927 Uittreksel handelsregister De Groenen.pdf](http://degroenen.nl/karlstad/Annex_5_-_20170927_Uittreksel_handelsregister_De_Groenen.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.kiesraad.nl/verkiezingen/europees-parlement/partijnamen-en-logos/register-europees-parlement>

<sup>4</sup> [http://degroenen.nl/karlstad/20170308 Proposal for FA WG.pdf](http://degroenen.nl/karlstad/20170308_Proposal_for_FA_WG.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> [http://degroenen.nl/karlstad/20170331 Co-operation between EGP and USGP.pdf](http://degroenen.nl/karlstad/20170331_Co-operation_between_EGP_and_USGP.pdf)



4. the harassment of former GPUS presidential candidate Jill Stein at the EGP Facebook Group;<sup>6</sup>
5. the exclusion of De Groenen from the word of welcome of the 24<sup>th</sup> council in Utrecht;
6. the persistent refusal to invoke the conciliation panel or the judge of peace in Ixelles in any financial dispute we have;<sup>78</sup>
7. the refusal to discuss these issues at a fact finding mission or when approached in person;<sup>9</sup>
8. ignoring letters where we raise these issues.

It is our perception that the committee is abusing the procedure for withdrawal of our membership to avoid our complaints about how she fulfils here duties.

With kind regards,

Rijndert Doting, chair

Otto ter Haar, member of the board

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<sup>6</sup> [http://degroenen.nl/karlstad/20170521\\_Facebook\\_EGP\\_Group\\_-\\_Andreas\\_Umland.pdf](http://degroenen.nl/karlstad/20170521_Facebook_EGP_Group_-_Andreas_Umland.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> [http://degroenen.nl/karlstad/20161011\\_Answer\\_to\\_Committee.pdf](http://degroenen.nl/karlstad/20161011_Answer_to_Committee.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> [http://degroenen.nl/karlstad/20161122\\_Reminder\\_Committee.pdf](http://degroenen.nl/karlstad/20161122_Reminder_Committee.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> [http://degroenen.nl/karlstad/20170620\\_Points\\_for\\_the\\_meeting\\_June\\_21\\_with\\_attachments.pdf](http://degroenen.nl/karlstad/20170620_Points_for_the_meeting_June_21_with_attachments.pdf)