

Brussels, September 2019

With this motivation letter I affirm my willingness to be re-elected as the Secretary General of the European Green Party (EGP).

Hereunder I will explain the reasons why I have decided to apply, and also outline the main priorities that I believe should be pursued following the 2019 European Parliament elections.

But first, a bit about me:

I am a woman from the south of Europe, born and raised in Sabadell, a metropolitan Spanish city in the region of Catalonia. I hold a Master's degree in Political Science. And I am a mother of two.

In 2002 I became a member of Iniciativa per Catalunya Verds (ICV), the Catalan Green party. For twelve years I worked in the City Council of Barcelona, first as an advisor on International Relations, and later as the Chief of Cabinet of the Deputy Mayor - responsible for the environment.

In 2012 I was elected to the EGP Committee, and two years later, at the 2014 Autumn Council in Istanbul, I was elected as the Secretary General following the resignation of Jacqueline Cremers from the position. At the 2015 Autumn Council in Lyon I was re-elected, this time for a full term ... and that term is now coming to a close.

Dear Green friends,

The 30th Council that our family will hold in Tampere will close a chapter that covers the 2014-2019 European Parliament legislature, the preparations for the Green European election campaign, and our historic 2019 European election result. Looking back on this time, we can see how many important events have shifted the world we live in: worldwide, in Europe, and in our member states: From the result of the Brexit referendum and the election of Donald Trump, to the births of the Me Too and Fridays for Future movements.

It has been a difficult and complex period. But it was in the midst of this whirlwind of events that the Greens knuckled-down - increasing our share of votes from close to 7 to nearly 10 percent and our MEPs from 52 to 75. These historic results should allow us to play a stronger role in the 2019-2024 legislature that will, undoubtedly, be an important one for the future of the European Union and its member countries.

Our Union faces an insecure and conflict ridden international environment, with populist leaders such as Trump, Putin, Erdogan, Modi, Bolsonaro, Johnson and Xi. Without ignoring the challenges and dangers that they pose, I firmly believe that there is sufficient strength in our societies to face them.

Movements like “Me Too”, “Fridays for Future, and others are a clear sign of our societies’ ability to react to the present threats. The Green Wave, embodied by our parliamentary growth, should be read in these terms as well. We proved that we have correctly analysed the multiple political, economic, environmental and social scenarios, and offered courageous and clear responses to their deterioration. And I am not saying this from a partisan perspective, as the latest Eurobarometer results prove, to me, four very significant facts:

1. Turnout for the EU elections in May 2019 was 50.6% - the highest since 1994.
2. The ones who drove up the participation - young people – had a turnout increase by 50% (16 / 18 to 24 year olds) and 34% (25 to 39 year olds).
3. The main motivations to vote were: The economy and growth (44%), climate change (37%), human rights (37%), and the future of the EU (36%).
4. 68% of Europeans now support the EU, the highest figure since 1983.

These prove how right we were when deciding the priorities that our campaign was to built upon, priorities that were magnificently represented by our lead candidates for the Presidency of the European Commission (Spitzenkandidaten) Ska Keller and Bas Eickhout on the campaign trail.

Adding to this was the positive effect of the work done by the Greens/EFA Group in the European Parliament in the last legislature, on issues such as taxation, dieselgate and democracy, among others. The partnership with the parliamentary group and the synergies we developed throughout the years were absolutely fundamental for the successful work of the EGP. Here, I would personally like to thank Ska, Philippe, Vula, Green MEPs, and the fantastic staff of the parliamentary group.

Also fundamental to our success was the good work that our member parties did in their national scenarios - a key factor that allowed our political family to consolidate a strong European electoral space. To name but one victory, which I personally experienced with great emotion: Alexander Van der Bellen’s win over the extreme right candidate in Austria’s Presidential election of 2017.

In August the Federation of Young European Greens (FYEG) renewed its leadership. I am convinced that Mina, Antoine and Özge will do a fantastic job in the execution of their roles just – as was done by Zuzana, Katri and Teo. The FYEG is today one of our main pools of talent, and a key political actor that facilitated our family’s connection with new movements defending the climate, such as Friday’s For Future. Without their electoral work we would not have attained the historic result that we can today be proud of.

The work developed by the Green European Foundation (GEF) under the presidency of Susanne Rieger was also a true engine of Green thought and reflection, and the success of decentralizing their work must also be acknowledged.

The EGP’s five major work axes were:

1. To strengthen political coordination with our Member Parties.

This was achieved through an individually tailored approach to every Member Party, and adjusting our activities and campaign to their national context. Member parties were actively involved in building the common manifesto, the campaign plan and the development and implementation of Tilt campaigns. Throughout this process, we established new and regular communication channels within different levels of the parties.

2. To facilitate networking and the exchange of experience of Local Councilors through the Green Cities platform.
3. To create space to connect with civil society and movements, and exchange ideas with them.

This was done through:

a) The European Ideas Labs (EIL) that were organized together with the Greens/EFA group. Since February 2017 we have held six meetings in different countries that allowed us to prepare a good electoral programme.

b) The creation of the Manifesto, as we shared our Manifesto with almost a hundred social movements and NGOs, taking into account their considerations and input during the drafting process.

4. 4. To enhance the advantageous collaboration with the other three pillars of the European Green family: The Greens/EFA Group, FYEG and GEF.
5. 5. To be up to date with new advancements and developments in the digital and media sphere. Our campaign was a truly innovative one, and it was marked with a decisive decision to incorporate new technologies into our work, especially in the pre-campaign and the electoral campaign. Tilt is an excellent example of this.

All these axes have been strengthened in the last years and months, together with member parties and partners. I believe that they should also have a future continuity, and they will remain my top priorities if I am re-elected. Many of the mechanisms established during the campaign now present the potential and the basis for the development of new valuable practices. In my next mandate, I want to further enhance these processes and structures that we have started.

The 2019 European Election results also allow us to investigate where our strengths and weaknesses lie.

The Green family is an asymmetric one where a dual classification can be identified between self-sufficient parties on one hand, and those that are still not on the other. I understand by self-sufficiency the ability for each party to guarantee its own political, electoral and organizational presence, as well as its ability to overcome negative cycles. Roughly speaking, we can identify a self-sufficient north and center. In the meantime, eastern and southern parties are still on the path of development and haven't yet realized their full potential.

I believe that overcoming this situation should be our top priority! It will not be simple, but it is possible. I am aware of the differences in democratic quality and material development, of the different political cultures that exist between the north and centre and the south and the east. But I insist that I strongly believe that it is not only possible, but necessary to consolidate strong Green parties in all corners of Europe. The mandate of the new EGP committee should focus on this, in cooperation with the strongest and most established member parties, to extend a hand of support to Member Parties who are in difficulty.

I believe local-based work is a key element to consolidate our Green options in the many different countries. The European Green family has a very rich and varied municipal experience, both in government and in the opposition. The sharing of that experience among the different Member Parties will gradually weave networks of grassroots organizations that will allow us to consolidate partisan structures.

We have an intense political and organizational work ahead of us to further strengthen the Green family, but also to develop our Green political agenda. The next five years of the legislature will be crucial to face a very worrying global scenario. The world today is more insecure, unsustainable and unequal: Alarms have been triggered with the threat of a new recession, the Russian arms race, the withdrawal of the US from the INF nuclear treaty with Russia, regional tensions, a trade war between China and the US, a humanitarian crisis triggered by the influx of refugees to Europe, the drowning of people in the Mediterranean, the punishment of volunteers and activists who save lives, the US withdrawing from the Paris Climate agreement, the questioning of climate change by leaders such as Putin or Bolsonaro, and growing inequality, the possibility of a no-deal Brexit, and the national-populist strategies threatening the European Union. A Union with outstanding and unavoidable duties to be carried out to strengthen, legitimize and be able to positively influence this global disorder.

We Greens have alternatives, we have our own program, and we have enough strength and credibility to be influential actors. It depends on us.

The unique Green way of doing politics: a libertarian commitment with civil rights and democratic participation. Doing politics realistically, but in a responsible way, with the ambitions to compromise where there is room to move forward. Fighting and governing. With one foot in the social movements and the other in the institutions. That is how we understand politics. And those are the values that are going to move my action in the next mandate together with my deep belief that we are in the age of women's empowerment. We are living extraordinary times where the little achievements on gender equality are strongly being fought against, but an extraordinary wave against this backlash has also emerged as a shield against any recoil, and with the power to bring the very much needed advance towards a more just social setting on this regard.

It is with these ambitions that I present myself for re-election. These past four years have been intense, but for me immensely rich in experiences. I sincerely and humbly believe that I am more qualified now than four years ago. Among other reasons, because the EGP is composed by a prepared, dedicated and professional team. Beyond the Committee there is a plurality of individuals that together increase the value of the EGP. And above all, I am so

lucky to have had the opportunity to work with two extraordinary leaders, teachers and friends: Monica Frassoni and Reinhard Bütikofer, to whom I would like to express my deep gratitude and appreciation for sharing their intelligence, work and generosity.

With all of the above, with responsibility and commitment I dare to ask for your support for my candidacy for the Secretary General of the EGP in the next two and a half years.

Thank you very much.

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