

INTRODUCTION

The EU 2019 election campaign

2019 was focused on the European Parliament elections held between 23-26 May. European Greens ran a common campaign with its member parties, enhancing the European level, in cooperation and with expertise of our partners, the Greens in the EP, the Federation of Young European Greens, the Green European Foundation and the Global Greens.

Climate was high on the agenda in several member states resulting in the Green Wave setting through. Not so in South and Eastern Europe. The outcome of the EU elections was analysed and the common campaign evaluated. The Green Group in the EP was at a high with 75 MEPs, including EFA.

The EGP Committee and Team initiated connections and cooperation with the new members of the Green Group in the EP as soon as it was established June/July. And closely monitored the negotiations leading to the Von der Leyen Commission.

The EGP Committee maintained good and regular contact with the member parties throughout the year.

1. STATUTORY MEETINGS

A. EGP Committee meetings

The Committee organised an electoral rally in April in Brussels and the autumn Council in Tampere, Finland. At, and in between these events, 9 physical Committee meetings were organised to manage the party and its priorities.

The 2019 Committee meetings were held on the following dates and places:

- 18-19 January, Brussels, Hotel Radisson RED, room 3
- 22-23 February, Brussels, EGP meeting room, rue Wiertz 37
- 14 April, Brussels, Hotel Radisson RED, room 3
- 23 June, Committee Retreat, Oslo, Anker Hotel, Storgata 55, conference room C
- 19 July, Brussels, EGP meeting room, rue Wiertz 37
- 13 September, Brussels, Hotel Radisson RED, room 3
- 4 October, Brussels, Hotel Radisson RED, room 3
- 7 November, Tampere, Tampere-talo Oy, Yliopistonkatu 55
- 2-3 December, Retreat of the new Committee, Brussels, Hotel Renaissance Brussels, The Club conference room

The minutes of the Committee meetings are posted on the internal delegates platform on the EGP website.

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B. EGP Council meeting

The EGP organised one Council meeting in November 2019. The EGP Council of November 2018 decided not to organise a Council meeting in spring and instead to focus on the common campaign for the European elections of May 2019.

The Autumn 2019 Council, Tampere, Finland - #EGP30

The 30th EGP Council took place in Tampere, Finland between 8-10 November 2019. The Finnish Green Party, Vihreät – De Gröna was our hosting party. Over 400 participants attended, with a commendable strong local representation of 140 Finnish Greens.

The conference centre Tampere-talo Oy (Yliopistonkatu 55, 33100 Tampere) was selected as venue.

Plenaries at the EGP Council covered:

- Europe in the world – Where do we stand in the global coordinate system?
- 2019 EU Elections campaign
- Climate emergency: from declarations to action
- Meet the Finnish Greens, Vihreät - De Gröna, with Q&A
- Keynote speech by Pekka Haavisto, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Finland
- Greens-EFA in EP session: Shaping the new direction for the European Union

Besides the many parallel sessions and workshops, short plenary sessions were held:

- Presentations of the candidates for EGP Committee election
- Presentations of the candidates of further internal bodies of the EGP
- 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall
- Farewell to the outgoing Committee members

On Sunday morning, the Council elected a new EGP Committee, with new Co-Chairs, a new Treasurer and several new further members. The period of the mandate is 2,5 years and runs until May 2022.

The delegates also elected a new Financial Advisory Board, Conciliation Panel, EGP representatives in the Global Greens Coordination – all for a period of 3 years - and a replacement EGP representative for the GEF General Assembly.

Besides resolutions, the Council delegates formally adopted the Accounts Report 2018, the 2020 Budget and Activities Plan and revised Membership fee criteria which now also foresee a financial mechanism for our non-EU member parties.

Further, EGP membership was ended with Latvijas Zelenā Partija from Latvia and Zelenā Partija Bulgaria.

And Verdi-Grüne-Vërc from South Tyrol, Italy, were welcomed as full members.

Programme: <https://europeangreens.eu/tampere2019/programme>

New EGP Committee: <https://europeangreens.eu/about-us#committee>

Adopted documents: https://europeangreens.eu/tampere2019/adopted_documents

2. NON-STATUTORY MEETINGS / ACTIVITIES

A. Common Campaign European election campaign

The campaign carried the slogan “**Let’s Act. Together!**” symbolising the urgent need to ACT on Climate, the need for politics of real action, the need to stay together as Europe, but a Europe that can act to create the changes that are needed, and showing an optimism towards the future.

The campaign period started at the Berlin Council (November 2018) where the 12 Key Priorities and the Green Common Election Manifesto 2019 were adopted. Translations into most EU languages, and Easy-to-Read versions were made available online during the first trimester of 2019. <https://europeangreens.eu/priorities-2019-what-european-greens-fight> for.

The Common Election Campaign of the EGP was launched on 6 March. It consists of several segments: Leading Candidates, Electoral Rally “The Green Wave”, media, Tilt!, member party cooperation.

A comprehensive evaluation of the common campaign was shared with the member parties at the Tampere Council, November 2019

Leading candidates

The Berlin Council in November 2018 elected Ska Keller and Bas Eickhout as the Green Leading Candidates, to be the Green voice in the European debate and to strengthen the Green voice in the national debates; this through different activities:

- Meetups organised by EGP (9) and Member Party visits (13) upon the member party’s request.
- Debates presidential candidates (3)
 - o Maastricht University, 29 April. With Bas Eickhout.
 - o European University Institute, Florence, 2 May. With Ska Keller.
 - o Eurovision Debate, Brussels, 15 May. With Ska Keller.
- Pledges and questionnaires. European Greens received over 50 requests from civil society for pledges of commitment and engagement.
- External Events (17) – European Greens received many invitations for events and debates for which EGP arranged speakers if the leading candidates were not available.

The Green Leading Candidates of course being the Green Family Candidates for the Presidency of the EU Commission.

The Green Wave - EGP Campaign Rally, Brussels, 13 April 2019

<https://together.europeangreens.eu>

The Rally was the biggest EGP electoral event in the lead-up to the European elections 2019 and energised and engaged the European Greens for the final stage of the campaign. Over 600 participants from all over Europe were calling for change and delivering a hopeful narrative for the future. The event was structured as a mix between politics and entertainment, starting with speeches

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by politicians, experts and activists, and ending in a celebratory atmosphere with a concert / DJ set.

Originally, the Rally was planned to happen in Amsterdam, co-hosted by GroenLinks. Several visits to prepare and scout for venues were organised between December 2018 and February. On 23 February the EGP Committee decided to hold the Rally in Brussels, keeping the date of 13 April.

As venue, the Wild Gallery (11, rue du Charroi, 1190 Brussels) was selected. Several buses were organised to bring participants from big cities in Europe to the Rally.

Complementary meetings on 13 April:

- Saturday afternoon, Greens in EP: training and presentation information campaign for candidates running for MEP (venue: Wild Gallery)
- Saturday afternoon, EGP co-organised with European Youth Forum and FYEG: Green Youth Day – with the Leading Candidates. Originally planned to happen in Amsterdam as well, it was also moved to Brussels. Aimed to engage young people in the European Elections 2019 (Venue: La Tricoterie, rue Théodore Verhaegen 158, St Gilles, Brussels)

Media

The EGP Campaign team continued its work with the agency Reform Act. Running a digital campaign in 28 countries in dozens of languages has many challenges that cannot be compared to a 'simple' national campaign. On 6 March, at the launch of the campaign the EGP shared a design pack and manual with the member parties, with logos, colours, backgrounds, posters, fonts and video assets, to optimise the commonality of the campaign. EGP produced a staggering amount of over 500 visuals and well over 50 videos during the campaign, most of them made in house by our Media Team (for example profile lead candidates, Our 12 electoral priorities, Europe Day, Climate Change, Hope).

From March onwards, interactive 'Online Activities' were published on Tilt and all social media leading up to the elections: You Effect, Gender equality, birthday weather, press freedom, and several short Get-Out-The-Vote videos - produced by Reform Act - building up in the last phase of the campaign.

In April, EGP had 166 volunteers in place for webcare and translations; managing the discussions and responding to comments on our social media in April and May. Facebook (and Instagram) not allowing advertisement on their accounts between 15 April to 9 May has definitely taken its toll. Nevertheless, a full account on social media numbers, press wraps of the respective events and debates shows EGP increased its outreach considerably. In average, online activities reached 2 million users of Facebook and Instagram.

Tilt!, the ChangeMaking Network

Tilt! started in June 2018 and has since then become a big and lively platform of almost 200.000 Europeans who care about European values that are close to us Greens. Fast and good quality translations of the campaigns in as many languages as possible, as well as Facebook advertisement (advertisement was interrupted between mid-April and 9 May), are key for its success. Close cooperation with the partners and the member parties is very important.

The Tilt! platform was an important tool for the online activities of the common campaign 2019.

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Member Party Cooperation

The EGP has analysed in detail the level of cooperation and engagement of the respective EU member parties in the 2019 common campaign. More specifically, the participation in the Campaign WG, the Manifesto WG, the campaign/media team communication channels (Slack), campaign events, use of digital content provided by EGP and in the Tilt! campaigns. The conclusion is that cooperation is increasing considerably with every EU campaign, but that there is a lot of potential for improvement.

B. Trainings – towards 2019

During 2019 the EGP invested in trainings and experience-gathering:

- A team retreat/training took place end January 2019 when most of the additional campaign staff was hired
- A training for the EGP volunteers was held in March 2019
- A team training was held on the Get-Out-the-Vote campaign in April 2019

C. Green Party Leaders meetings

In 2019, the EGP Committee organised several meetings with the Party Leaders of the member parties, only one of which a physical meeting. The Committee started using the online Zoom meeting tool for brief meetings with the Party Leaders on certain topics of common interest.

- 6 March: online PLM for a presentation of the EGP common election campaign elements
- 29 May: online PLM for a first reaction on the European election results
- 6 June: online PLM on state of play new Green Group building
- 12 September, PLM, Brussels, to discuss the political situation post EU elections and present the new Green Group in the European Parliament. Venue: L42, rue de la Loi 42, 1040 Brussels
- 26 November, online PLM – green position on VDL Commission

D. Fact Finding Missions to the member parties

- June, Fact Finding Mission to Latvia
- July, Fact Finding Mission to Bulgaria
- September, Fact Finding Mission to South Tyrol, Italy

E. Working Groups meetings

The regular Working Groups did not organise specific meetings but cooperated horizontally in the common election campaign.

The WG Revision of Membership Fees prepared a proposal for the Autumn Council and held meetings on:

- Friday, 7 June, Brussels
- Saturday 20 July, Brussels
- 27 September, Brussels, Treasurers meeting

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F. Networks meetings

In this election year, the EGP Networks overall cooperated horizontally in the common election campaign.

- Gender Network
 - April, Publication of brochure: Empower. Fight. Resist – Five years of feminist struggle in Europe.
 - EN:
https://europeangreens.eu/sites/europeangreens.eu/files/AAFF_EMPOWER%20FIGHT%20RESIST_xarxes.pdf
 - ES:
https://europeangreens.eu/sites/europeangreens.eu/files/AAFF_EMPODERA_LUCHA_RESISTE_xarxes.pdf
 - November, Tampere Council, parallel session workshop: The Paradox of Equality in Finland and Europe
- Local Councillors Network – Green Cities
 - June, Oslo, Norway, Conference – Cities for the Future, the Green Way
<https://europeangreens.eu/oslo2019/programme>
venue: DOGA, Hausmanns gate 16, 0182 Oslo
 - October, Vienna, Austria – EGP was involved in the preparation of the Central European Round Table meeting of local councillors (event postponed due to the national elections of 29 September)
 - November, Tampere Council: parallel sessions: meet the Greens in Tampere + How can EGP support local councillors
- Disability Network
 - November, Tampere Council, parallel session workshop: Accessible and sustainable travel in Europe
- European Network of Green Seniors (ENGS):
 - November, Tampere Council: General Assembly + parallel session: presentation of the new Finnish Policy for the Elderly

G. Other meetings

EGP New Year's reception 2019

The EGP Committee organised a new year's reception on the evening of Wednesday 23 January in Atelier 29, Rue Jacques de Lalaing, 1000 Brussels. Invitations went out to the EGP's partners, to all Greens based in Brussels, to journalists and NGO's. Over 200 people attended.

COP 25, 'Chile'-Madrid, Spain, December 2019

EGP Committee members participated in several activities at the COP25 held in Madrid, Spain, between 2-13 December; Climate March on 6 December, an informal meeting organised by Greens-

EFA in EP on 9 December, a dinner arranged by the Global Greens on 10 December, and a public event organised by EQUO, “Urban challenges for climate emergency” on 11 December. GEF set up a Green Hub in Madrid during the COP25 to provide a meeting point for members of the Green Family.

3. PARTNERS

A. Greens-EFA in EP

EGP is represented in the Green Group Bureau meetings. The Committee continued its strong working relationship with the Greens-EFA in EP in the run up to the elections. Regular meetings between the EGP Co-Chairs, the Green Group Co-Presidents, the Secretary Generals and the Leading Candidates took place (Committee of 7). There have also been daily bilateral contacts between the staff of the Group and of the EGP in the different departments (press/campaign/advisors).

Post elections, the EGP Committee and staff initiated contact and cooperation with the new Bureau and made introductions to the new MEPs in the Green Group in the EP.

Further cooperation included:

- Promotion of the Greens-EFA information campaign through the EGP channels between April and May
- 24 January, Brussels, Communications and Network meeting.
- Several EGP Committee and staff members participated in the Greens-EFA study days, held in London between 14-16 October
- November Tampere Council, Greens-EFA plenary session at the November Tampere Council: Greens-EFA Shaping the new direction for the European Union

B. Green European Foundation (GEF)

For most of our research, political analysis and information platforms we continued to rely on the expertise of our partner GEF. EGP is represented in the GEF General Assembly and can attend the Board meetings and Strategy meetings.

Further cooperation included:

- EGP promoted GEF’s e-learning tools through the EGP channels
- June, Oslo, GEF held a parallel workshop at the Local Councillors Conference – A Charter for the Smart City
- November, GEF set up a stand at the Tampere Council
- EGP supported GEF’s EGAT programme (European Green Activist Training) throughout the year

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C. Federation of Young European Greens (FYEG)

FYEG is represented in the Committee meetings with one of the co-spokespersons. EGP Committee members participated in FYEG events. The cooperation with our youth partner FYEG was close, consistent and very fruitful in the framework of the 2019 EU election campaign.

EGP/FYEG event 'Be Brave, Green Europe!' on 29-30 March 2019 in Madrid

The "Be Brave, Green Europe!" event in Madrid brought together around 100 young Greens from across Europe to celebrate Young Green candidates, launch the youth election campaign, and learn about upcoming actions leading up to the May elections. The workshops on the first day helped to locate the campaign's key themes and clarify how local Young Green can take these themes over while adapting them to their specific contexts. The campaign rally was the highlight of the event, gathering candidates, representatives of the local Greens as well as guests from social and ecological movements. Local people who were curious also joined the rally. The speeches flowed well with each other, and the mix between interactive sessions such as the fishbowl with local activists and speeches was well-balanced. The interpreters did a fantastic job at turning this into a bilingual event, and the venue was welcoming and warm.

FYEG also held several meetings at the EGP Council in November 2019:

- On Friday, 8 November in the evening, a Youth event on climate injustice was organised in cooperation with FYEG and the Finnish Greens youth wing, Vihreät nuoret: "Climate change - What the f#&!?". The event took place in Bar Passion, Tullikamarin aukio 1 in Tampere.
- FYEG also held a parallel session meeting at the Tampere Council on "the Youth Role in the EP elections".

D. Global Greens

The Global Greens started preparing their next Congress in 2021, drawing up recommendations for a climate smart Congress, looking for local coordinators to set up satellite events. They held a parallel session at the EGP Council in November 2019. Main topic on the agenda was the next Global Greens Congress: "How the Global Greens 2021 Congress will take climate and democracy action together with Your Green Party".

Global Greens organised a dinner and drinks during the COP25 on 10 December in Madrid.

E. European Movement International (EMI)

EGP has been member of EMI since May 2018, and attended in 2019:

- the 'Democracy Alive' festival they organised in Den Burg, NL, between 11-13 April. An EGP team set up an EGP stand.
- the EMI Federal Assembly, Helsinki, 8 November

4. ORGANISATION

A. EGP Team and office space in campaign times

The EGP office counted 14 full time equivalents before 2018. It was enlarged to 34 staff members at the peak of the EU election campaign. In 2018, the previous office units were dissolved and the organigramme was reshaped to better match the structure and the work during the election campaign. Under the general supervision of the Secretary General, the newly hired campaign manager and the office manager functioned as second line managers, the campaign manager having the overall content-related responsibility and the office manager in charge of all administrative issues. The new teams during the campaign period consisted of media, lead candidates, TILT, member parties and messaging, event management, Committee assistance and finances/HR.

To accommodate the additional staff, the meeting rooms of the office were turned into regular work office, and a second apartment was hired from December 2018 till August 2019 for meetings and trainings.

B. Green Wave: Team and office space after the successful EU elections

All work contracts of the campaign staff ended between July and October 2019. The work contracts of four campaign staffers (among them two for TILT) were extended until the end of the year 2019, with the goal of not losing their experience and expertise after the election campaign had ended and before new recruitments would be started end 2019.

Knowing that the good EU election results would lead to a considerable increase in EP funds which would allow an increase in activities, events and projects that the EGP could organize in 2020, the Committee took the decision to increase from 2020 on the number of staff in the office and to look for a larger office space.

Looking for bigger office space became necessary because the current location at Rue Wiertz 31, EGP's official seat since 2004, had become too small for the increased amount of staff. After intensive search, based on a needs assessment of the future EGP office, and after comparison of the three most interesting venues, the Committee decided to opt for a building in the European Quarter, around the corner of the Commission seat at Berlaymont and with 15 minutes walking distance from the European Parliament, at Rue du Taciturne. Negotiations with the owner for a long-term rental contract started and a 9-year contract, with the option to stop the contract after 5 years (end of the ongoing EP term) was finally signed.

In parallel, a restructuring of the office was initiated, taking into account the increased number of staff and the need for a middle management level. The Committee adopted the new structure at its December 2019 meeting. The essential elements were the implementation of four newly shaped units (Program, Policy-Strategy-Competence Development, Communication and Administration) with a head of unit as team leader for each. We started hiring new staff end 2019 / beginning 2020, and an intensive office retreat was organized in December 2019 to implement the new structure.

All posts were filled at the time of this report, and the office move to the new premise will take place as soon as the Corona crisis has come to an end.

C. EGP Front meeting room

After the European elections, the front meeting room in rue Wiertz 31 was opened up again for visitors and external meetings of the Green family. All in all, 36 external visitor groups were hosted in the EGP meeting room. More detailed:

- Green MEPs visitor groups (visiting for an EGP introduction) – 10 (mainly German, Irish, Finnish)
- Greens in EP and MEPs (working groups, cluster meetings) – 3
- Member parties visiting (local delegation groups, national green parties) – 14
- External groups (visits from universities, foundations, civil society) – 9