

Draft EGP Resolution

1 **Fighting Trump and the far-right: building the alternative through deeper**  
2 **democratization and socio-economic integration in the EU**

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4 The election of Donald Trump as US President last 8<sup>th</sup> November 2016 is a result that will not only entail a  
5 huge impact to those residing in the US, but, moreover, is likely to cause major turbulences on a worldwide  
6 scale.

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8 Trump indeed represents, primarily, a threat to democracy, freedom and the rights of American citizens. His  
9 overt agenda foresees restricting civil liberties, dismantling social rights, distributive policies and social  
10 coverage - all this with a misogynous bias - as well as a conflicting protectionism, harassment of "minorities"  
11 and disengagement of multilateral bodies, besides representing a real threat to division of powers. At the  
12 economical level, the introduction of protectionist barriers and financial deregulation leads to a scenario of  
13 greater financial instability and a recessive push, which will most likely also have a global impact.

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15 Whereas, in international relations, a shift and intensification of the conflict to China can be expected, at the  
16 same time, we can assume an effective distancing from multilateral institutions and bodies, as well as an  
17 interested disengagement from international commitments (climatic, economic and financial-trade and  
18 even the UN-system). This will most probably prevent any effective tackling of major global challenges, and  
19 at the same time, inhibits spaces that can prevent political-economic-monetary-regional-trade conflicts  
20 from escalating and feeding each other.

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22 Coming back to the roots of the US presidential election result, the obvious shift of the republican electoral  
23 body towards a proposal and candidacy with fascist traces should be a reason for the deepest concern. It is a  
24 clear evidence of the current blindness towards a modernized and updated fascism - clearly with  
25 differences from the fascisms of the 30s and a camouflage that makes them very dangerous. And as we can  
26 see, Europe is sadly no exception to this trend, but rather one of the regions where this trend is more visible.  
27 A clear recent consequence of such a trend in our continent is already a reality with the outcome of the  
28 Brexit referendum, of which not only most of the UK's citizens will fall victims to, but which also appears to  
29 fits well in Trump's agenda of pursuing a weakening of the EU project. Moreover, in the nearest future, we  
30 are facing an alarming situation in France (not to mention Germany, Sweden, Finland, the Netherlands,  
31 Hungary, etc.) with Front National having a real chance to access the Elisée.

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33 Thus, we cannot, at this stage, underestimate the destructive power of the "international reactionary  
34 movement", where the Trump Administration may play a uniting role of actors in different countries. Indeed,

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35 with his victory, Trump has become the flagship of what we could call as the “Reactionary International”,  
36 fuelling the expectations of all kind of far-right and philo-fascist populist movements across the globe,  
37 which essentially share an approach of national retreat and dismantling of multilateral fora. But we cannot  
38 afford a normalization of the current situation and a political combat is required in all fronts.

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40 To the extent that the menace is already very present in our political landscape and threatens deeply the  
41 common institutional setup we have built since WWII to prevent this from ever happening again, it is  
42 certainly time for a determined reaction. The criticality of the current moment will unavoidably accentuate  
43 the conflict within European society(ies) between the integration vs. withdrawal drive. As a pro-European  
44 force, we, Greens, need to fight for the European project, and we need to do this with all the energy and  
45 intelligence we have.

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47 It seems important to be able to understand the strength of the national identities and, once understood, to  
48 be able to confront them politically and propose an alternative. First of all, we need to confront  
49 ideologically. Trump and the far-right in general permanently attempt to neutralize any ideological debate,  
50 bringing it towards more vague notions and through the simplification of analysis and providing responses  
51 to challenges based on mere slogans. We must absolutely unveil these inconsistencies, confronting them not  
52 only with facts, but also with a narrative that creates a wider and inclusive “we” to overcome the exclusion  
53 that creates their “we against others approach” and bringing the debate back to the domain of concrete  
54 public policies.

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56 It is here where we will maximize our chances to unmask Trump and make evident that, not only him as a  
57 billionaire, but also most of the far-right populist leaders in Europe who portray themselves as anti-  
58 establishment are usually nothing but clear exponents of the establishment itself, winners of the capitalist  
59 globalization, and belonging to the 1% who most benefit from the current system. Furthermore, their  
60 solutions are based on segregation and alienation of ‘others’ who are used as scapegoats. We need to work  
61 thoroughly in order to prevent this split taking place in Europe, it being an existing risk as we could envisage  
62 in some of the passages of the economic crisis.

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64 Clearly, the usual recipe book is not enough and no longer credible, since it is actually largely accountable  
65 for the dramatic situation experienced during the past years and the consequent scenario we find ourselves  
66 in now. We need to stop the ‘business as usual’ approach that led us there, and in front of the despair and  
67 the threat of barbarity, it becomes, therefore, more necessary and urgent than ever to offer a hopeful  
68 perspective and a future horizon at the European level. Without neglecting its importance and difficulties, if

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69 the barriers and constraints (some of them derived from the current European institutional architecture and  
70 jurisdictional distribution), which generate the current democratic powerlessness and narrowing of  
71 alternatives, are not addressed at the same time, the only thing that will be doing is merely winning a little  
72 bit of time in deferring the national retreat.

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74 Secondly, we have the duty to come up with a real alternative! It is our responsibility to tackle the challenge  
75 of the current cultural backlash based on bigotry, supremacism, "my nation first", isolationism, racism and so  
76 on; confronting all of this with progressive, cosmopolitan and open-society values. To succeed in this, we not  
77 only need to put in all of our wisdom and tireless efforts, but we also need to find effective ways of  
78 collaboration with the institutional and social resistance in the US itself and worldwide.

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80 Hence, we need each and every one of our possible allies, in order to put forward and deliver an adequate  
81 socioeconomic answer, namely a true comprehensive alternative based on solidarity, social justice and  
82 respect of the climate, which is essentially an antagonist to the aforementioned cultural backlash. And we  
83 must do all of this without forgetting at all the importance that the democratic dimension plays in all of this,  
84 and rather putting the necessary democratic upgrade at the core of this process.

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86 In Europe, the perceived democratic shortcomings of the EU institutional setup, be this perception accurate  
87 or not, have played a crucial role in the increased disaffection towards the common project, and it has  
88 become a weakness that has led many to escape via the exit, towards embracing national retreat postulates.  
89 Moreover, in front of an opponent who represents a real threat to democracy within global governance, the  
90 only effective answer to such short-circuiting attempts at a European scale is to offer more democracy.  
91 Consequently, the main and most urgent challenge at the moment in this sense is concluding the  
92 democratic-fiscal integration of the Eurozone, where, regretfully, the level of development and consensus in  
93 the concretion is much smaller than in other domains still.

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95 Finally, the victory of Trump, combined with the reality of Brexit and the upcoming internal threats ahead,  
96 ought to be the ultimate external and internal stimuli for the EU to eventually get back on track in this  
97 sense. It provides also a unique chance to regain a certain global moral leadership, which has been lost over  
98 the past decade and which has reached its lowest levels with the answer provided in the so-called refugee  
99 crisis.

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101 The occasion of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Treaty of Rome provides a unique occasion to make this deep  
102 reflection as well to remind ourselves of the values and the founding objectives upon which the Union is

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103 grounded, which appear to have been left behind in the past years. We need to recover the compass and  
104 make the difference, confronting Trump's agenda with what Europe always wanted to be recognisable by:  
105 unity in diversity, empathising and providing welfare to those who are disfavoured and suffer, in order to not  
106 let anyone be left behind.

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108 It is about time to react and repeal the final joint offensive to dismantle the EU: either we convert this  
109 internal and external pressure into a steer for concrete action to create a resilient Union, or this can become  
110 nothing but the last lunge to the European project if we give up. Hence, every policy field shall be a global  
111 ideological battlefield. And in front of the deportations of migrants and the construction of walls, we must  
112 open our borders and say firmly: 'Refugees welcome!'. In front of measurers fostering xenophobia and  
113 discrimination on religious grounds, we must foster open, intercultural societies of dialogue, tolerance and  
114 inclusion, also as the most effective way to tackle the roots of radicalisation leading to terrorism. And in  
115 front of climate negationism, we must step up our efforts and play again a leading role in order to achieve  
116 the required binding targets and effective related measures to prevent global warming. Also, thanks to the  
117 Global Greens network, we will keep building an even stronger solidarity alliance of resistance to Trump  
118 and the far-right in all five continents.

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120 To conclude, we, Greens, have shown that we are committed to these values and essential aims for the  
121 future of humankind, there where we have had our share of responsibility: in local and regional  
122 governments with pioneering projects of hosting and inclusion of refugees, migrants and asylum seekers;  
123 creating more inclusive and greener cities, with all the necessary social services for all; and also with our  
124 presence in national governments, pushing for the much needed clean energy transition, for instance in  
125 Germany, or even recently being at the forefront of the climate deal in Sweden.

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127 We have shown, all in all, the path to confront Trump and the far-right's logic with concrete effective  
128 policies, and we are ready to take an even bigger share of responsibility, because we are convinced that our  
129 proposal for Europe is the one that can defeat the phantom of the far-right. The next stop in this ongoing  
130 global battle is certainly France, where we need to prevent Le Pen reaching power. And we have proven that  
131 we are not only a source of good proposals to prevent this from happening, but also that we are ready to  
132 take the highest responsibility in that, as we did in the Presidential election in Austria, where former Green  
133 party-leader Alexander van der Bellen was the one who managed to stop the far-right threat.

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135 So, we claim with pride and conviction that the Greens are the best antidote to Trumpism and far-right  
136 across Europe and the globe!