

INTRODUCTION

The definition, management and execution of the 2017 work plan will be key to successfully reaching the EP elections of 2019. The decision taken at the first Council after the last EP elections – Istanbul, November 2014- to already start preparing the following European election takes all its' meaning at the equator of the European legislature. The Committee has the responsibility to plan and execute a working plan, without forgetting daily tasks, as an important stepping stone towards designing and developing the electoral-2019 strategy. This will include the elaboration of the procedure for the organization of the primaries and further proposals to make “more European” the EP competition. Indeed, we need to confront the current tendencies to renationalize.

Elections are to be held in important EU countries like the Netherlands, France and Germany. 2017 will also be a decisive year in the Brexit management.

Also in 2017 we will organise the 5th EGP Congress jointly with our global partner, the Global Greens, at the Joint Congress 2017, to be organized in Liverpool. Both appointments resulting in the Joint event require great efforts from both organisations' Executives Committees. For the EGP it will mean to start the work of realization of the main lines of our European strategy. The best contribution we can make to the Global Greens will be to define the European responsibilities in today's global reality and resist the tendencies to the renationalization of important EU policies.

POLITICAL PRIORITIES

Within the framework of the short/mid/long term planning the Committee developed a 2019 Strategy Goals document. This document provides framework for 2017 to continue the path of raising our capacities, strengthening our political priorities and our narrative, expanding our outreach and heading towards a successful European elections in 2019.

The Roadmaps for both years will be developed in cooperation with our Member parties, through which we and our partners will be able to target and support the fixed priorities; activities, structures, politicians and investments in their development and performance.

We will intensify our work with membership relations, in both, a multilateral way, by strengthening the exchange between member parties and the promotion of transnational activities; and bilaterally, by initiating projects on key topics.

Cooperation with important stakeholders within the *Green family* is not left behind and we will use 2017 to introduce innovative and creative capacities. Together with member parties we need to identify the issues that will allow us to run a common campaign and enable that the strategy of 27 member states is a coherent, mutually supporting, locally relevant document that arms Greens in all countries of the Union with a strong and powerful message and support.

FUTURE OF EUROPE

Pursuing the unfinished business of political integration in Europe is the status operandi of the Greens. In the Utrecht Council, our Member parties committed “to show the grit” not only what the Future of Europe is, but on how to achieve what we see as a Green Europe in the near and distant future. We will focus on the topics that are identified in the resolution: EU after the Brexit referendum: Time to reset.

The Future of Europe Working group held several meetings in 2016, and we have organized a public event in order to open up a dialogue within the European Greens and relevant stakeholders. The working group will continue its work in 2017 and the EGP will organize regional meetings on the post-Brexit debate.

EGP will devote some funds to communication activities and actions around the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the EC/EU, in cooperation with member parties and other partners.

DIVESTMENT

The Divestment - Fossil Free 2016 Campaign will be continued in 2017. We want to keep strengthening the Divestment movement in the European landscape and gathering pace for Climate action. Together with Member parties we can Divest! in different corners of Europe, raising at the same time the profile of the Greens. Aside of the ongoing divestment campaign, we will continue to actively support transition to energy efficient, carbon neutral societies that are powered by renewables.

GREEN CITIES CONFERENCE

Green Cities Conferences in 2015 and 2016 set good examples and a high standard on how to focus on best practices and how local level politics advance both Green politics and its transition to practical policies.

We see that the Local Councillors Network is becoming stronger through the Green Cities Conferences format, and the investment in a local level exchange is necessary. In 2017 we will continue building up communication and cooperation with and among Local councillors. In order to support them in providing Green answers to common problems they face locally all over Europe we will organise one Local Councillors Conference in Autumn 2017.

GENDER and LGBTIQ work

Gender and LGBTIQ rights are at the core of our political convictions, actions and organizations. Only with own example we can mobilize others, thus we will keep on investing in gender and LGBTIQ Green structures and support their actions, advocacy and campaigns on local and European level. We want to keep mainstreaming these issues throughout our work. The LGBTIQ network will support one of the Prides in European cities, organizing gathering of the network in order to support local member party and activists struggles.

ACT

The Committee has already taken steps towards transforming ISN Individual Supporters' Network into a new ACT-Network!". This network will be based on collaboration between supporters and EGP, focused on implementation of EGP campaigns. We will invest resources in delivering an online platform, which empowers individuals interested in European Green politics, connects them with each other and with the EGP, on a collaborative basis.

The ACT Network is to play a role in the involvement of the EGP in European-wide campaigns. The Committee will ensure that there is enough managing capacity and needed resources to set firm foundations for this network.

Engaging in dialogue with change makers

During 2017 we will continue to work with civil society and those organizations and individuals that are setting the political agenda all across Europe, bring innovative approaches and mobilize through different strata of society. We want to invest in strengthening constant communication, to bring change makers together to better understand common challenges and struggles discuss and exchange thoughts and experiences and build support and alliances.

Regional cooperation

The EGP will continue to actively support regional initiatives and cooperation among its Member parties in 2017.

Some more established examples like the Balkan network will be followed up by support to the Visegrad Green Group and possibly others.

WORKING GROUPS AND NETWORKS

Through our Working groups and Networks we are able to raise involvement of Member parties. The Committee will engage in a discussion with all the working groups and networks to develop mid-term strategies for further development.

Working groups and Networks:

Working Groups

- WG Foreign and Security Policy
- WG Trade
- WG Future of Europe

Networks

- Balkan Green Network

- Gender Network
- LGBTIQ Network
- Local Councilors Network – Green Cities Conference
- Individual Supporters Network (ISN) - ACT
- European Network of Green Seniors (ENGS)

MEMBERSHIP

The Committee will continue supporting Member parties. Diversity within EGP membership requires different actions, tailored through constant communication and exchanges between respective counterparts. We want to contribute to amplify their efforts, and increase relevancy of Greens on local and European level where necessary, within and outside the EU. Together with our partners we will support the targeting of political capacities and potentials and support our Member parties. We will continue assisting member parties through different actions like visiting, mentoring, internships, expertise/materials providing, etc.

We want to foster the debate in the Member States about the EU and make greens accurately aware of the EU political agenda. In collaboration with GEF, FYEG and GGEP we will continue to provide platforms for sharing experience and knowledge on EU policies. In that regard, EGP will look into possibility to provide training programs for the members of green parties who want to engage on EU-related debate and argumentation.

The Committee will allocate more time to actively pursue relations with the Member Parties and will continue to visit member parties.

For that purpose, as well, the Committee intends to continue organizing the Green Leaders meetings.

Transnational activities

In order to continue to build upon successful experiences, the Committee put a high priority to ensure sufficient funding to contribute to transnational activities; we can strengthen our impact in the national debates by making the need for cross-border answers to issues like climate change, migrations, human rights, trade more visible. The example of the KOD tour we have organized in 2016 together with Member parties in several countries will inspire us for 2017.

We will organize multilateral exchange meetings between Green Parliamentarians from national or local parliaments. We aim to support an exchange of experiences, discuss specific challenges and how to bring European politics to the national level.

The Committee will continue to support the Internship program, meant to facilitate three-months internships where direct political practices in policy building, media work, internal structure management, etc. can be examined and best practices taken from more experienced to the parties in need.

Applications

In some countries Green parties have a strong and secured position. In other countries Green parties are subject to new developments and change. The Green brand needs to be strengthened further and the fact that we keep receiving membership applications shows the attractiveness of the European Green family.

The Committee will work on processing current membership applications and explore possibilities for finding new members.

PARTNERS

Global Greens

The organization of the next Global Greens Congress to be held together with the EGP Congress in Spring 2017 in Liverpool, UK, will be the major theme of collaboration with Global Greens.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been agreed and regular meetings of a Steering Group have been and will be held to develop the political and logistical organization. Funds will be allocated for the preparation of it.

FYEG – Federation of Young European Greens

We continue to work in cooperation with our youth wing. We appreciate the intense level of activities they manage to organize with relative low resources and high level of political debates their Members are involved in on national and international level.

The Committee intends to continue the efforts to both, support the participation of young people, as well as to keep the issue of Youth as a high priority in our political work, and support it transversally through other topics.

GEF – Green European Foundation

The Committee will continue building on the successful cooperation with GEF on trans-national activities and cooperation. As part of the GEF General Assembly composed of representatives of the Member parties we work on continuing to strengthen the ties between EGP, the member parties and the GEF.

It is specially Summer universities that bring opportunities for fostering new ideas and approaches, for advancing cooperation and dialog within Green movement and strengthening collaborations with change makers. We want to keep our efforts of being present among them.

Green Group in the European Parliament

The Committee will continue a strong working relation with the Green Group in the EP. Together we will organize a European Ideas Lab event, which will take place in February 2017 and is supposed to gather 400 change makers, i.e. representatives from CSOs, movements, activists or Green parties to discuss core political issues.

The Committee will continue the practice of joint meetings with the GGEP Bureau.

ORGANISATION

Grant application and revision regulation

2017 will be the year of implementing the new statutes adopted as a consequence of the EP regulation of the financing of European political parties and foundations.

We will also prepare for the new financial regulation. The new rules will fully apply in 2018 and we will make sure we comply with all requirements to apply for the maximum grant.

EGP Office

Thanks to the EP Grant to the EGP, the office can remain staffed with 14 employees.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS, CONGRESS AND COUNCIL

The Committee proposes to hold the Joint Congress on the 30th March – 2nd April 2017 in Liverpool and the Autumn Council on 24-26 November 2017. In between the Councils 9 Committee meetings are organized to manage the party, execute the priorities and prepare the Councils.

The 2017 Committee meetings are scheduled for:

- 14 – 15 January
- 10 – 11 February
- 29 March – 2 April (Congress Liverpool)
- 5 – 6 May
- 9 – 11 June (retreat)
- 7 – 8 July
- 15 – 16 September
- 13 – 14 October
- 23 – 26 November (Autumn Council)

The agenda and the minutes of the Committee meetings are posted on the internal Delegates platform.