

INTRODUCTION

The European Green Party work in 2016 focused on making the answers the Greens have to the current challenges more visible and audible, while at the same time preparing the 2019 European Parliament elections structurally and politically.

Apart from the two EGP Councils, the EGP Committee organised its Divestment Campaign around network meetings and visits to the member parties.

1. STATUTORY MEETINGS

A. EGP Committee meetings

The Committee organised its spring and autumn Councils on 20-22 May 2016 and 18-20 November 2016. Around and in between the Councils, 8 physical Committee meetings were organised to manage the party, to execute the priorities as well as to prepare the Councils and the 2017 joint Congress.

The 2016 Committee meetings were held on the following dates and places:

- 29-30 January, Brussels
- 11-12 March, Brussels
- 15-16 April, Brussels
- 19 May, PM, Utrecht, the Netherlands
- 17-19 June, Retreat, Oslo, Norway
- 9-10 September, Brussels
- 7-8 October, Brussels
- 17 November, PM, Glasgow, Scotland, UK

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

B. EGP Council meetings

The Spring 2016 Council, Utrecht

The 24th Council of the European Green Party was held in the Training and Meeting Center Domstad in Utrecht, the Netherlands on 20-22 May 2016, a mere few weeks before the UK referendum on EU.

On Friday morning, prior to the Council, the Greens-EFA in EP organised a public conference: What role for the Greens in Europe to fight tax evasion and tax avoidance? The fight for tax

justice has been one of the priorities of the European Greens. Taxes should be seen as investments for collective well-being, and a commitment to solidarity.

EGP Council plenaries were:

- What holds Europe together? To which degree should we reformulate the European narrative?
- Refugees: challenges for Europe: Greens discuss how to turn around the negative perceptions on migrants and refugees, keeping EU project from disintegrating. Positions, answers and strategies are shared.
- Europa quo vadis? Facts, ideas and alliances to bring back the European dream. In this session facts and proposals are shared to show why the European interest is more effective than trying to find national solutions.
- End of fossil fuels: Greens and Divestment. The historic Paris agreement in December 2015 marked the beginning of the end for fossil fuels. The transition to renewables is not happening fast enough. The debate is focused on how Greens can scale up the divestment post-Paris.

On Sunday, the council delegates voted on a first set of technical amendments to revise the EGP Statutes as a start of the preparations for the application as a European Political Party in spring 2017. The delegates voted on the Utrecht resolutions and elected people for several of its internal bodies.

The Autumn 2016 Council, Glasgow

The 25th Council of the European Green Party was held in the Technology and Innovation Centre of the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, UK on 2-4 December 2016.

Preceding the EGP Council, on 1st December 2016 in the evening, a Youth debate and pub quiz was organised with the cooperation of the Scottish Young Greens: "Scottish Youth - European Youth: What's our Common Future?". Around 100 participants gathered in the Lighthouse in Glasgow for the debate on the benefits of EU, freedom of movement and jobs.

Plenaries at the Glasgow Council were dedicated to:

- Europe after the Brexit referendum: Reset and Relaunch: the discussion was built around the questions:
 - What are the consequences of Brexit, not only in the political environment and Brussels bubble, but in public perception and debate?
 - What should be the priorities for Greens in UK and EU around the agreement that will have to be negotiated?
 - What should the EU do to respond to the need to deliver and gain trust?
- After the Panama papers: towards fair corporate taxes in Europe. This plenary was co-organised with the Greens-EFA in EP. Questions tackled:
 - How to strengthen the role of the Green member parties to push for more tax justice?
 - How to deepen cooperation between the green tax experts in the member parties and the Green MEPs in the case of the Panama Papers inquiry committee in the EP?
 - What impact will Brexit have on EU tax policies? Is the UK going to be the next tax haven?

- Jobs and Innovation: the challenges of employment and innovation looked at from three different angles: the research perspective, the start-up perspective and the regulatory angle.
- Youth: how can Greens attract and convince young voters? The discussion was based on successful campaigns some member parties had in 2016.

Among other, the Council delegates voted on further technical amendments to revise the Statutes, on the Budget and membership fees for 2017 as well as on the Glasgow resolutions. On membership issues, the Council voted to withdraw the membership of the Slovakian Strana Zelenych, to change the membership category of Groza Russia from full to associate membership and to accept EQUO from Spain as full member of the EGP.

2. NON-STATUTORY MEETINGS

The Committee has engaged in a discussion with the EGP Working Groups and Networks to develop mid-term strategies for their further development. In 2016, the following meetings were organised:

A. Working Groups

- WG Migration
 - December, parallel session at the Glasgow Council
- WG Foreign and Security Policy
 - February, WG Foreign Affairs, EGP Hq, Brussels
 - May, parallel session at the Utrecht Council
 - December, workshop at the Glasgow Council “EU Contribution to Peace and Security” in cooperation with Greens in EP
- WG Trade
 - May, parallel session at the Utrecht Council
 - December, parallel session at the Glasgow Council
- WG Future of Europe

Apart from a parallel session in both Council meetings, in 2016, the WG Future of Europe held three meetings in Brussels:

- 13 February 2016, at the EGP office in Brussels
- 17 September 2016, in Mundo-B, Brussels
- 10 December 2016, in the Science 14 Atrium in Brussels.

B. Networks

- Balkan Green Network
 - May, parallel session meeting at the Utrecht Council
 - November, Seminar Greening Balkan Economies, Skopje, Macedonia
 - December, Network dinner at the Glasgow Council

- Gender Network
 - The Gender Network had parallel session meetings at both the Utrecht and Glasgow Council.
 - 29 June, Gender network meeting, in the EGP Hq in Brussels: “The price of inequality – gender equality as democratic and monetary currency”
- Local Councillors Network
 - May, parallel session meeting at the Utrecht Council
 - December, parallel session meeting at the Glasgow Council
- Individual Supporters Network (ISN)
 - May, parallel session meeting at the Utrecht Council
 - December, parallel session meeting ACT at the Glasgow Council
- European Network of Green Seniors (ENGS):
 - ENGS organised a parallel session meeting at the Utrecht Council in May
- LGBTQ Network (Utrecht, Glasgow)
 - May, parallel session meeting at the Utrecht Council
 - June European Queer Greens – Out and Green – seminar at the Baltic Pride, Vilnius, Lithuania
 - November, European Queer Greens network meeting
 - December, parallel session meeting at the Glasgow Council
- Russia-Ukraine-Moldova-Belarus (RUMB)
 - 22-26 April RUMB – Chernobyl 30th Anniversary conference, Belarus

C. Other meetings

New year’s reception

The EGP organised a new year’s reception on 27 January in the Musical Instrument Museum in Brussels. The Committee invited its partners, all Greens based in Brussels, journalists and NGO’s to a cocktail new year’s reception. Around 130 people participated.

UK referendum on EU - BREXIT

Following the Brexit result of the UK referendum on EU held on 23 June 2016, the EGP Committee organised two physical follow up meetings. A phone conference with all green party leaders was set up on 24 June for an exchange of views. A first meeting soon after the referendum was held and a second meeting in the autumn after the emotions of the first hour had somewhat settled:

- 18-19 July, London, UK, ad hoc meeting on the Brexit result of the UK Referendum. The EGP Committee visited the UK Greens and met with GPEW, Scottish, Irish and Northern

Irish Greens. The meeting room was set up in NCVO in London.

- 15-16 October, Seminar, Green answers on Brexit, Dundalk, Ireland – with party leaders of the Green Party of England and Wales, the Scottish Greens, the Irish Greens, the Northern Irish Greens and the Welsh Greens.

Green cities

In follow up of the Green Cities Conference in Helsinki from September 2015, two more meetings were organised in 2016:

- 11 June 2016 Local Councilors Conference “A local green view on refugees: the opportunities and challenges for our cities”, Munich, Germany
- 22 October 2016, Local Councilors Conference “Moving Ahead: Green Mobility for Healthy Cities”, Rome, Italy

A People-Oriented Economy

On 30 September and 1 October 2016, the EGP organised a conference on economic policy in Brussels: **An Economy OF, BY & FOR the People**.

The conference gathered Greens as well as speakers from trade unions, businesses, civil society and academia from across Europe and focused on the ongoing economic transformation of our societies, focusing in particular on Green policy solutions and how we can put citizens at the center of this transformation. The topic was addressed more specifically from the angle of the Youth and from the workers’ protection. The concept of the Green New Deal was developed in a way that enabled us to define a clearer, people-oriented green economy.

The conference was co-organised with the Greens-EFA in EP, co-hosted by the two Belgian member parties Ecolo and Groen and held in Ateliers des Tanneurs on Friday and in BEL Brussels on Saturday.

Public Debate, Bozar, Brussels

9 December 2016, Reset the EU: regain trust, rebuild vision, Bozar, Brussels

The event was divided in two parts. In the first eight EU testimonials were given by speakers who shared their personal stories with the audience, highlighting how the existence of the European Union played a critical role in their successes and also how the lack of it resulted in their failures. During the second part of the event the French author and journalist Raphaël Glucksmann discussed about the ever changing notion of the “European identity” and how to mobilise against populism. About 250 participants joined the debate.

Throughout 2016, preparing processes:

- Joint Congress 2017 #greens 2017, Liverpool, 30 March – 2 April 2017
The Zagreb Council in 2015 agreed to combine the 5th EGP Congress and the 4th Global Greens Congress and hold it at the same weekend in Liverpool, UK. The hosting party Green Party of England and Wales (GPEW) decided to organise their spring conference at the same time. To prepare these 3 processes a Steering Group was set up with representatives of the Global Greens Coordination, the EGP Committee and the GPEW. Starting out with monthly phone conferences, the frequency was gradually raised to bi-weekly phone conferences during 2016.
A couple of visits to the UK for venue scouting took place. A face-to-face meeting of the Steering Group was organised in Liverpool on 18-20 March 2016.
- European Ideas Lab (EIL)
Initially planned for autumn 2016, the EIL was eventually scheduled for the beginning of February 2017 in Brussels in the Tour & Taxis buildings.

D. Divestment Campaign / Communications

Divestment Campaign

Fossil Divestment Campaigning was identified as one of the EGP's priority activities in 2016. The EGP Committee focused on mobilising the member parties. In our messaging we combined divestment from fossil and reinvestment into renewables and efficiency. EGP actively supported the member parties that wanted to participate in the divestment campaign. EGP also looked for cooperation with NGO's and other pertinent divestment players.

Several workshops on Divestment were held at congresses of the member parties, EGP Councils, summer universities and Network meetings. Where possible the EGP facilitated participation of the member parties as well as divestment materials (for more details see below):

- 22 April Mother Earth Day, street action in Brussels "Signing Ceremony"
- 15-16 April workshop divestment at SF Congress, Denmark
- 22-26 April Divestment workshop at RUMB Greens, Belarus
- 13-16 May, "Ende Gelände", days of action, Lusatia, Germany
- 4-15 May, Break Free Week, Germany
- 20-21 May, EGP council workshop and plenary on Divestment
- 15 July, Campaigners workshop on Divestment, Brussels, EP – in cooperation with the WG Climate Change of Greens-EFA in EP
- 15 September, Finance Transformation Forum: Divest/Invest, Frankfurt, Germany
- September, Workshop with Serbian Greens
- 18 October, London, Action Climate Crime Scene – demonstration at the 'Oil & Money' conference (with BP, Shell, Exxon ...)
- November, EGP Divestment tour
 - A panel debate in Sweden, Linköping, 1 November 2016, 19h-21h, Elsas Hus.
 - A movie screening in Amsterdam, 2 November 2016
 - A movie screening and following panel debate in Potsdam, Germany, on 9

November

- A public action together with Ecolo in Brussels on the morning of 10 November
- A panel debate in Madrid on the evening of 10 November
- EGP divestment stand at the German Party Convention from 11 to 13 November
- 13-20 November, at the occasion of the UNFCCC COP22, in Marrakesh, Morocco (daily newsletter, street actions, video interviews)
- 3 December, Climate Financing, HBS Conference, presentation divestment campaign, Turkey

Publications:

- A handy guide to divesting from fossil fuels. Was published in 5 languages (EN, DE, ES, IT, FR). Also made available online on EGP website.
- The Carbon Bubble. Was published also published in 5 languages.

Divestment Campaign materials #fossilfree2016 have been produced (T-shirts, bike seat covers, bike bracelets, rain jackets, caps, lollipops, umbrellas, wallets, matches, mini guide...).

Upon request materials and publications have been shipped to 22 out of the 38 member parties during 2016. Additionally, materials and publications have been made available for the participants of the green summer camps of the following green parties:

- 8-10 July Austrian Greens
- 14-18 July Polish Greens
- 18-25 July Serbian Greens
- 22-26 July Bulgarian Greens
- 26-28 July Austrian Greens
- 20-24 August Croatian Greens
- 25-27 August French Greens
- 26-28 August Belgian Greens, Ecolo
- 26-28 August Belgian Greens, Groen
- 9-10 September, EQUO, Spain

Communications

Throughout 2016, regular postings were ensured on the EGP Facebook and Twitter accounts as well as on the EGP website. For detailed report, see Annex.

Website renewal and visual identity refresh

The Committee continued the process of a website and visual identity refresh - to make it more user-friendly, consistent and to adapt it to the latest technology "responsiveness" for mobile phones and tablets – with the company Wunderkraut. Wunderkraut presented their proposals, also for a new EGP logo, to the Committee in May in Utrecht and proceeded from there. At the Glasgow Council a parallel session was held to inform the member parties.

3. MEMBERSHIP

A. Membership relations

The Committee plan towards 2019 combined the development of our political agenda, strengthening of our parties, supporting our politicians and spreading our message.

The membership relations have been intensified, both in a multilateral way by strengthening the exchange between member parties and the promotion of transnational activities, and bilaterally by initiating projects on key topics.

EGP Committee members visited the Green parties in the regions they are responsible of:

- January Czech Greens Congress
- January Polish Greens visit
- February FFM Slovakia
- February visit Croatia
- March FFM Portugal
- March visit ORaH
- April SF Congress (with divestment workshop)
- April Yesiller ve sol Gelecek congress (with divestment workshop)
- May, Tour with civic movement KOD (Poland) to member parties (Bulgaria, Austria, Germany, UK, Scotland)
- May, visit to DOM, Macedonia
- May, visit to Montenegro
- June, visit to Miljøpartiet De Grønne, Norway
- June, attending EELV Congress
- June, visit to LMP, Hungary
- July visit to SMS, Slovenia
- July visit to ORaH, Croatia
- August, summer camp Groen
- August, summer camp Ecolo
- August, summer days EELV, Lille, France
- September, summer university EQUO, Spain
- September, visit Swedish Greens delegation to EGP office in Brussels
- September, visit to DOM Conference, Macedonia
- September, FFM EQUO, Spain
- September, Joint delegation to Sweden with Greens-EFA in EP
- September, Scouting mission Serbia
- September, FFM South Tyrol, Italy
- October, visit to Scottish Greens Congress
- October, meeting with Zelenite, Bulgaria
- October, Central European Greens Round Table, Vienna, Austria
- November, visit to EQUO General Assembly, Spain
- November, visit to Bundesdelegiertenkonferenz, Germany
- November, visit to Zelena Partija and Zelenite, Bulgaria
- December, visit to Belarus and Ukraine Greens

B. Party Leaders meetings

Party Leaders of the member parties were invited to Brussels in March and September to

enhance the decision-making process for the European Green Party spring and autumn Councils.

- *22 March Party Leaders meeting, at L42 in Brussels*
!!!! This meeting had to be cancelled on the morning of that day, due to the terrorist attacks in Brussels.
- 21 May, PLM meeting held at the Utrecht council meeting. The Committee presented its Strategy goals for 2019.
- 24 June, phone conference to discuss the outcome of the UK referendum on EU
- 28 September, PLM, at La Tricoterie – Fabrique de liens in St. Gilles. The main topic on the agenda was post-Brexit

C. Internship exchange program

The Committee continued with the 3-months exchange project for interns to facilitate young Greens to learn from and experience the more established offices of some of our member parties and for the more established parties to learn about other member parties.

- Eteri Jintcharadze, from the Georgia Greens, finished her internship end of January 2016 in Berlin in the headquarters of the German Greens.
- Paz Serra Portilla, from EQUO Spain, did the internship in the Belgian Ecolo headquarters from September to November 2016.

4. PARTNERS

Greens-EFA

The Committee continued to build strong working relationships with the Greens-EFA in EP. Meetings between the Co-Chairs of the EGP and the Co-Presidents of the Group were established as well as a regular format for meetings between the Group's Bureau and the EGP Committee. Next to this there is a daily exchange routine between the staff of the Group and of the EGP.

Also, in particular:

- Friday morning 20 May, Utrecht, Greens-EFA in EP held a public conference before the EGP Council: What role for the Greens in Europe to fight tax evasion and tax avoidance?
- Saturday, 3 December, A plenary was co-organised with Greens-EFA in EP: After the Panama papers: towards fair corporate taxes in Europe.
- Saturday, 3 December: A parallel session was co-organised with Greens-EFA in EP: workshop EU Contribution to Peace and Security

Green European Foundation (GEF)

For much 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.

At the Utrecht Council in May GEF organised a book launch: Green Values, Religion and Secularism

At the Glasgow Council in December GEF organised:

- Migration and refugees: a new narrative for Europe
- Green European Journal: regionalism across Europe: a force for (dis)integration?

Federation of Young European Greens (FYEG)

We continued to work in cooperation with our youth partner. The EGP Committee and staff participated in their February strategy meeting, May General Assembly, July summer camp and working groups. FYEG is represented in the Committee meetings.

FYEG co-organised with EGP an educational seminar alongside the COP22 in Marrakesh, Morocco.

FYEG held a parallel session meeting at the Glasgow Council in December.

Global Greens

The cooperation with the Global Greens was quite intense during 2016 while preparing for the Joint Congress in Liverpool. The Secretariat of the Global Greens was installed in the EGP office since 2015 for this purpose (until end of June 2017).

ORGANISATION

EGP Staff

During 2016, two more employees have been hired to organise the increased number of events and visits to the member parties.

EGP Office

We continued our effort to be an open office for the Green family. All in all, 72 external visitor groups were hosted in the EGP meeting room during 2016.

We can distinguish:

- **MEPs used room for their own meetings:**
13 MEPs (press breakfasts, team retreats)
- **Visitors groups that came to see us:**

7 External groups (students, foundations, Brussels tours, etc)

8 Green groups from Member parties

- **Greens meetings:**

28 meetings - 5 groups in total - Brussels local board

4 meetings - International Greens Brussels

3 internal meetings of different Green groups visiting Brussels

5 meetings FYEG (Executive Committee, Strategic Planning Meetings, WGs)

- **Other:**

4 workshops of Green feminist initiative