

## 1. Introduction

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During 2018, our priority will be to prepare for the European elections 2019. We are committed to conducting an effective pan-European common campaign, with a resonating Green message. Together with our member parties, we are at the gateway of bringing several important decisions that will shape not only our activities but the whole strategy for the European elections. Thus, in 2018, we will focus on the activities and initiatives that will provide us with political outputs to be built into the campaign strategy, planning, the manifesto and our public profile for the elections.

We continue to witness important elections that will significantly influence the political discourse towards the European elections, such as parliamentary elections in Italy, Sweden and Hungary. 2017 has given Europe the effects of Brexit, the humanitarian refugee crisis, important climate challenges, and the Spanish and Catalan issue, among others. New political crises may also arise and it is our aim to ensure that we present a strong Green perspective and that our responses are heard as part of the European debate within different arenas and among the various stakeholders.

Therefore, we pledge to use 2018 to reach out and engage in dialogue with both our current and potential allies and supporters.

## 2. Political priorities – towards 2019

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### JOINT CAMPAIGN

In order to develop a **joint campaign**, the EGP Committee and the member parties will cooperate with a coordinated approach.

#### Campaign Strategy Working Group

- We will establish a campaign working group in which all EU member parties and partners willing to get involved in the preparation and execution of the campaign are represented.
- With the aim of being more operative, and given the complexity of the coordination, the Committee will invite members of this working group to form an executive board.
- A communication group at a more executive level will also be appointed, consisting of the communication people of the member parties

Other ad-hoc groups with limited tasks can also be created and for a limited time if this is

necessary.

Associated tasks:

- **Campaign strategy**, common campaign preparation
  - Coordination with the campaign agency
  - Campaign managers' meetings
  - Coordination of volunteers
  - Election polling
  - Research into the opposition
  - Support for the Committee for coordinating with GGEP, FYEG and other relevant actors
  
- **ChangeMaking Network**, subject to the Karlstad Council's adoption of the proposal
  - Engaging in dialogue with change-makers
  - Platform, database (data-protection rules), promotion, content/projects moderation, participant management, coordination with member parties and partners
  - Liaising with parties/(advisory board)
  
- **EGP Manifesto 2019** - Appointment of the manifesto working group (as well as a manifesto editorial group)

The Committee will establish a working group to prepare the common manifesto 2019. An editorial board will develop a comprehensive text encompassing our main Green political agenda, with clear and credible proposals for a Green Europe. The manifesto will be voted on at the Autumn Council 2018. We foresee a minimum of two meetings for the working group and editorial board. This process will be linked to the decision-making process in the 2018 spring and autumn Councils.

## FUTURE OF EUROPE

The future of Europe is no longer just a discussion for institutional specialists or aficionados: in fact, it is gaining a growing resonance among the wider public. It is clear that most policy areas that are relevant for citizens are affected by the existence of a strong and democratic European Union, able to deliver on the economy, rule of law, rights, well-being and security of its citizens and residents. Taking a clear stand on the EU, and what it should be and do, can influence election results, as demonstrated in recent national elections across the continent – and we are convinced this will be the case in 2019.

As Greens, we want to be part of and be able to influence this European-wide debate, bringing concrete proposals for reform and campaign initiatives that can shape the direction the EU is going.

Beside the activities of the working group on the Future of Europe, which will prepare concrete proposals to be adopted by the Council in Spring 2018, we will organise an event on the topic of a green 'resetting' of the EU. We remain open to alliances and collaboration with other civil society actors to pursue this objective.

### EUROPEAN IDEAS LAB (EIL) + REGIONAL EILs

Together with the Greens-EFA in the EP group, in 2018 we will continue our communication and cooperation with stakeholders from the civil society, individual activists and movements, which are investing their efforts to achieve like-minded changes locally or in our European societies. While ensuring a constant flow of information and mutual support, we will focus on the European Ideas Lab events as a focal point for meeting, debating and creating the seeds for future common actions.

The main EIL will be organised in Brussels in March 2018. It will bring together Greens and change-makers from across the European Union in large numbers, to discuss political priorities, and to present and build upon one another's achievements. At the same time, the EIL is an incubator for ideas for shared actions and cross-sectorial or cross-national cooperation.

Two smaller-scale, regional EILs will be organised in cooperation with Green parties from the respective regions. In May, another one will be held in Denmark and in autumn 2018 there will be an EIL in the Czech Republic.

### GREENS JOINING COMMON ACTIONS

Over the last two years, the EGP has invested in developing its relationships with different civic movements and has enhanced its capability to actively participate in pertinent campaigns. In particular, we gave emphasis to the divestment campaign.

For 2018, the EGP Committee proposes to go one step further. We propose to make a concerted effort to team up with different movements on different topics and different occasions around the year. We want to develop our capacity in sharing campaigning efforts between as many of our member parties as possible for specific occasions.

The EGP will provide campaigning material in the required languages, activity proposals and action ideas as well as common documentation of the efforts of the member parties. We are proposing that member parties participate in as many action days as they want. Of course, the more common effort we manage to organise, the better. Our hope is that all member parties could benefit from increased visibility of the European Greens in these joint activities.

We will provide material and support for the following action days in 2018:

- Women's Day, 8 March

- Earth Day, 22 April + Commemoration of the Chernobyl Nuclear Disaster, 26 April (+ Divestment)
- Europe Day, 9 May, focusing in particular on democracy in Europe
- World Refugee Day, 20 June
- Coastal Clean-up Day, third Saturday in September + Maritime Protection Day, last Thursday in September
- Anti-corruption Day, 9 December

### GREEN CITIES CONFERENCE

We will continue working on a Green cities conference as a format that can provide us with the opportunity to strengthen the Greens at the local level, and provide, promote and transfer Green answers and concrete policies.

### GENDER and LGBTIQ work

We will build upon the results achieved in 2017 and continue mainstreaming these issues throughout our work. The Gender and LGBTIQ network will foster active discussions within their membership and organise gatherings at the EGP Council alongside their own activities, the aim being to provide outputs in their field of competence and interests in preparation of the European election campaign.

Following our positive experiences, we will support one of the European pride events organised through the Queer Network, supporting the local member party and their efforts and struggles towards our shared goal – an equal society.

### PARTY LEADERS MEETINGS

Maximum two Party Leaders meetings will be organised through-out the year in accordance with the pre-agreed dynamic and agenda. These meetings will ensure that the base for the common campaign is grounded in the different realities, and the needs and expectations from the Common campaign are matched.

## 3. Partners

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### **Green Group in the European Parliament – Greens in the EP**

The Committee is pursuing the continuation of a strong working relationship with the Greens-EFA Group in the European Parliament. Joint efforts will focus mainly on the

upcoming elections in 2019.

The Committee will continue the practice of holding joint meetings with the GGEP Bureau, at least twice in 2018.

The GGEP has started to develop the components for its 'information campaign' in view of the 2019 European elections, with the aim of providing a source of in-depth political content for the member parties and candidates-to-be.

We will continue to cooperate on the European Ideas Lab projects, as explained above.

### **Federation of Young European Greens – FYEG**

We envisage enhanced cooperation while preparing for the 2019 election campaign and will promote Youth issues as a high priority in our political work and transversally through other topics.

We will join in the FYEG 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, which will be marked by a series of events.

The EGP is continuing its financial support for FYEG (as per the agreement in Copenhagen, May 2012), based in the EGP premises. Moreover, we will continue to cooperate with our very committed youth wing on joint activities. We appreciate the high level of campaigns, political debates and trainings they manage to organise with relatively few resources.

Committee members Reinhard Bütikofer and Thomas Waitz will continue as primary contacts for FYEG.

### **Green European Foundation – GEF**

The Committee is continuing to build on the strong cooperation with GEF on transnational activities, the summer universities being the best example, among others, and appreciates their valuable training and research capacity as well as the Green European Journal.

The EGP is represented by four people from GEF bodies: Co-Chair Reinhard Bütikofer is a member of the GEF Board; Committee member Gwendoline continues as GEF GA member; and two other representatives from EGP member parties have a seat at the GEF General Assembly, which meets twice a year.

### **Global Greens**

The priorities of the Global Greens are built around two issues: climate change and democracy.

The EGP continues to support the Global Greens with its membership fee, as in previous years. The selection of the next convener and a co-convener has been finalised. Their

cooperation will be evaluated in September 2019.

A new MoU between the EGP and GG will be negotiated and, when signed, a copy will be shared with the Council delegates and the member parties. The GG secretariat will move out of the EGP premises by mid-2018. In principle, the next GG congress will be organised in 2022, presumably hosted by the Asia-Pacific Greens Federation.

The EGP is represented in the Global Greens Coordination by two Committee members: Evelyne Huytebroeck as a full member and Gwendoline Delbos-Corfield as an alternate member.

#### 4. Working Groups and Networks

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Through our working groups and networks we are able to enhance the involvement of member parties. Apart from the regular parallel sessions held at the Councils, any additional activities will be focused on raising awareness for the common 2019 campaign.

**Working Groups:** Future of Europe, Foreign and Security Policy, Trade.

**Networks:** Balkan Greens, Gender, LGBTIQ, local councillors (Green Cities Conference), ENGS

#### 5. Relations with our members

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In an effort to build a relevant and efficient Common campaign, together with the member parties, we will organise visits to their respective countries. Scouting missions will be arranged to those countries either where recent political changes have shaped new relationships within the political spectrum, or where the European narrative has significantly changed in recent years, or where the member parties have experienced changes in their political status.

Furthermore, we will organise study visits to the member parties, following up on the invitations and matters of common interest. Additional working meetings will be organised to sustain the debate and explore the perspective of collaboration during the European elections campaign.

We will further develop tools to help member parties by responding to their specific requests. These may include providing speakers for events, linking member parties that can learn from each other, sharing materials and identifying possible solutions to challenges the parties are facing.

To save resources and maximise on efficiency, relations with the member parties will be focused mainly on the common campaign, as described above.

Nevertheless, we will be available to our member parties outside of the EU, to support them when needed, based on the availability of current resources.

## 6. Organisation

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### **European Political Party**

We will work towards strengthening cooperation with the other relevant European Political Parties. We want to join forces around the concept of leading candidates for the upcoming EU elections.

As an officially registered European political party, the EGP is entitled to apply for European Parliament contributions. In 2018, distribution of the total EP contribution to political parties is based on 10 parties. The EGP has applied for a contribution based on 42 MEPs in the Greens-EFA group and expects to receive EUR 2.3 million.

### **EGP Office**

The 2018 financial resources will allow for the EGP office to remain staffed with 14 regular employees (including the Secretary General). In addition, in 2018, the team will be enlarged with extra staff in the run up to the 2019 EU election campaign. Currently, we foresee between three and six extra staff members, depending on the final size of the campaign budget and the necessities that will be detailed in the campaign plan.

### **Councils and Committee meetings**

The Committee proposes to hold the 28<sup>th</sup> EGP Council on 18-20 May 2018 (venue to be decided) and the 29<sup>th</sup> EGP Council on 23-25 November 2018 (venue to be decided).

During and in-between the Councils, 10 Committee meetings will be organised to manage the party, execute its priorities and prepare for the Councils. The 2018 Committee meetings are scheduled for: 19-20 January; 23-24 February; 13-14 April; 17 May at the Spring Council, 18-20 May; 15-17 June Retreat; 13-14 July; 14-15 September; 19-20 October; 22 November at the Autumn Council, 23-25 November; and 14-15 December.

Committee meeting minutes are posted on the internal delegates' platform on the EGP website.