



Tuesday, 22nd August 2017

Registered mails to:

De Groenen

Mr. Otto ter Haar

Oudegracht 60, 3511 AS Utrecht, NL

&

Mr. Jozef van Kessel

Frans Halsstraat 66, 5613 KW Eindhoven, NL

Email:

To: otto@degroenen.nl, vnkessel@gmail.com

Cc: ronaldschonberger@hotmail.com, jolanda.verburg@planet.nl, rijndert.doting@gmail.com

Dear Otto,
Dear Jozef,

At its meeting on the 7th July 2017, the EGP Committee decided to propose to the November Council in Karlstad, Sweden, to withdraw the EGP membership of the De Groenen.

This has not been an easy decision and it was made after careful and detailed discussion and examination of the findings of the Scouting and Fact Finding missions undertaken in 2017, as well as taking into account the communications with De Groenen in the last decade.

While the current conflict within the party has been in the focus of our communication in the last months, we want to clearly state that this is not the reason for the undertaken decision. It is however one of the indicators for us that De Groenen fails to perform collectively, keep and further develop stable structure, participative active membership and democratic and inclusive procedures. All of these are part of the basic criteria that a party, that sees itself as a Green party, needs to have, as listed in the EGP Membership criteria.

Furthermore, the political performance of De Groenen has been constantly decreasing for a long time, reaching levels that don't live up to the status of a political party. A lack of political content that is related to the reality of life and politics in The Netherlands, a lack of specific election programs, and a lack of relevancy of policies and community related programs indicate a lack of collective political vision, collective ambition and collective capacities. A lack of structure and strategy (whereas at the same time resources are spent on internal fights) lead us to believe that this is not a temporary condition.

We do not want to take away any credit nor respect for the devotion and invested efforts and resources of De Groenen individual members, nor to deny the historical role and contribution that De Groenen once played in the European Greens Coordination and later on in the European Federation of Green Parties, thus helping the very beginning of the EGP.

However, the EGP Committee has a hard responsibility regarding its membership credibility and resources. De Groenen has not been part of the Dutch national political scene for quite a while, its

membership has been decreasing to a handful of activists and a few more sleeping members, its political activism has been oriented to internal activities and sporadic and individual or localised action. Additionally, your organisation is constantly struggling with the gender equality within the party structures.

EGP Membership criteria are clear, providing full membership status to the parties that have developed national structures, active and credible participation and interaction within the wide and diverse political scene and in elections, and promote Green politics in its full scope and complexity. We do not find De Groenen fulfilling those criteria and thus propose withdrawal of your membership status.

Full documentation will be sent to the Council delegates according to the EGP Rule book, at least 3 months prior to the Council (Thursday, 24 August 2017). This proposal will be put to the vote at the upcoming EGP Council, to be held in Karlstad, Sweden from 24th to 26th November 2017. De Groenen representatives will have the right to provide counter argumentation to this proposal.

In general, De Groenen has one vote during the EGP Council and is entitled to reimbursement for 2 delegates. As we do not have indications that the internal representation conflict would be solved by then, we would, as for the EGP Congress in Liverpool, have to find a common solution for the De Groenen representation in Karlstad.

We are expecting your feedback,

Remaining at your disposal for the clarifications, questions or suggestions,

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mar Garcia".

Mar Garcia
EGP Secretary General

Gwendoline Delbos-Corfield
EGP Committee member

Evelyne Huytebroeck
EGP Committee member