

Brussels, 24.9.19

Candidacy for EGP Committee Member (2019/2022)

Dear Friends,

I am proud to be part of our European Green family and to contribute to our common programme and the vision that unites us.

I have worked with the European Green Family for many years and it is here, together with many of you, that I developed my experience, skills, and dedication to the Green cause. I would like to put forward my candidacy as a member of the Executive Committee of the European Green Party. This ambition to contribute to the work of the party is based on my political convictions, my engagement and passion for our Green project. Together we can make the difference for a better Europe and a better world.

We are not alone in our common struggle. The youth movements, the street protests fighting for equality and global justice, feminist and LGBTI groups, Green-entrepreneurs, intellectuals and democracy activists, together they all prove that people are able to stand up and create a new political dynamic. It is the role of our political party to bring all of these groups together and to unite their demands into a political programme for the future. The encouraging European election results were an important moment for our political family; our policies were at the top of the political agenda and the number of Green MEPs elected increased significantly.

We campaigned successfully as a pro-European and pro-change alternative, demonstrating that another Europe, a better Europe is possible.

We achieved historic success in some Member States. However, at the same time, our electoral results showed major imbalances between Northern, Western, Southern and Eastern Europe. One of the biggest challenges for the coming years will be to expand the green wave beyond its current borders. We should reinforce our actions and focus in order to support the Green movements and parties in the South and East. It should be our common ambition to strengthen Greens on the local, regional and national level and to achieve a truly European wide representation by 2024.

I would like to contribute to supporting Southern and Eastern parties to strengthen the green movement and fully develop its potential. A Europe-wide Green movement is of major strategic importance for our political family, but even more importantly for Europe's course of action as a whole.

Today more than ever, the Green agenda is relevant for every citizen and climate change is at the forefront of people's minds. We need to reach out and develop our strategy to connect with and convince people that our Green proposals can provide credible solutions to the problems they face today.

It is our task to prove that the Green agenda is not only about fighting climate change and protecting the environment. We defend every citizen's right to breathe clean air, to have access to healthy food and to find decent future-proof jobs. Greens today fight for social justice, against tax evasion and for a Europe which puts an end to years of destructive austerity. Against the rise of populists, extreme right-wing parties and nationalism, we Greens tirelessly fight for the rights and freedom of every citizen - including those who are facing discrimination because of who they are or what they stand for. We are the party of fundamental rights, transparency and the fight against corruption. It will be our common task to ensure that this message can be heard, loud and clear, all over Europe.

I believe I can play a positive role in the reinforcement of our presence in these countries with a special focus on the South of Europe, a reality that is closest to me. I have an in depth knowledge of the political landscape, and an extensive network of people I have worked with, and also speak a number of the relevant languages.

As the Secretary General of the Green Group in the European Parliament, I have participated in the work of the EGP Committee for many years. I hope that I will now be given the opportunity to engage in a more structured and strategic way. I want to help to further connect our party with civil society, to share best practices and Green success stories, and connect green parties who are not represented in the European Parliament with our Members, enabling them to work together on common initiatives.

I am convinced that helping to reinforce the cooperation between the European Green Party, the Green European Foundation, the Green Group in the European Parliament and the Federation of Young European Greens towards our common goals will be a great asset. This cooperation worked very well during the last campaign for the EU elections, and it is my ambition that this successful engagement continues in the years to come.

It would be an honour for me to receive your trust and to contribute to this new and exciting task.



Vula Tssetsi