

Fellow colleagues, dear friends.

After all and again, I took the decision to offer you, the Europeans Greens my dedication, political instinct and experience. I run as co- chair of the European Greens.

My personal background:

I am an organic mountain farmer, forester and beekeeper in the very south of Austria and the very north of Slovenia (Region of Stajersca / Steiermark).

In direct marketing I sell milled wood and honey.

My three kids are 19 to 24 years old, the occupation by family and farm work has decreased substantially due to the age of my kids and my occupation in politics.

My political background:

In the last twenty years I contributed on many levels to green politics. As member of the national executive board, the Styrian regional executive board, local party boards, the regional and national foundation (Grüne Bildungswerkstatt) and last but not least with developing the green farmers association Austria. I was in charge in several election campaigns on local, regional, national and European level. From 2017 to 2019 I served a mandate in the European Parliament. In case of Brexit I will return to the EP as a member.

On the European level I started 2004 at the founding of the EGP in Rome as a regional delegate. Since then I was, was some short breaks, part of the Austrian EGP delegation.

Through my profession I specialized on questions around food, GMO, pesticides, antibiotics, regional and organic farming, soil, animal welfare, mass breeding and animal transportation, global food production, seeds, agro multinationals, fair trade, co2 emissions and climate change, ecologic forestry, water quality, nature protection and many more Eco topics.

As a politician I worked on fields like security and peace, finances and trade, tax avoidance, corruption, foreign policy- especially on the Balkans, free internet, culture and democracy.

Beyond that my heart beats for the unique project of overcoming the narrow nationalistic perspective and replacing it with a European and finally global “regionalism”. Or does any one have a planet B to offer? Climate change, loss of biodiversity, pollution, the transition to a green and fair economy or equal and inclusive societies are global challenges- and Europe has a crucial role to play in that transition! Here I see our duty as European greens next to other progressive parties- to set the agenda of change within our regions, our countries, in the Eu and in Europe!

But, after all, I am a „realo“, concretely working on realistic goals, realistic options, realistic next steps. Through my direct contact to population, farmers, workers, market customers, through my 15 years experience in campaigning also on battlefields which aren't easy for Greens like the rural areas or within the workers community I grew a good sense of what moves people on the ground and how to communicate in a way that reaches out beyond the “converted ones”, to new potential voters.

My clear priorities for the up coming years are:

Strong support for our member parties in the south and east of Europe with the goal to prolong the “green wave” towards good representation in national parliaments, city and village councils, governments and with members in the European Parliament.

Foster the exchange of best practice examples and successful green policies across our members with networks, events, congresses and GEF.

Build on the capacity of the EGP and our Members to campaign. With TILT run by EGP, with fast sharing of the best campaign able content, with joint framing and know how transfer in how to run the show- this is how I believe we can enhance our impact a lot- Europe wide campaigning is the goal!

Enhance the cooperation with civil society! We did well in some fields, sometimes only due to personal contacts and good luck. There I believe, we can get better- for the sake of all of us.

For more details on my plans, please ask in the office at [ann.verheyen@europeangreens.eu](mailto:ann.verheyen@europeangreens.eu) for a more detailed paper!

EGP work will be in the center of my political effort the coming years. The two last years from 2017 to 2019, I as the new MEP - after Austrian Greens lost their seats in the national assembly- had to deliver a lot of presence to our Austrian electorate. Due to the fantastic election result, Austrian Green are stronger then ever and I will have the luxury to allow me to only focus on our common European level.

So, in case UK makes the fault and leaves our Union, this brings me back to the European Parliament as MEP.

Also in this case my focus will stay with our European Green Movement, maybe enabling me to deliver even better!

I would be honored to earn your trust and vote

and I am looking forward to serve you all within our green movement  
as co chair of the European Greens

Thomas Waitz

Großwalz 9

A-8463 Leutschach an der WeinstrasseÖsterreich/ Austria

0043 664 83 17 496

[thomas.waitz@europeangreens.eu](mailto:thomas.waitz@europeangreens.eu)

[thomas.waitz@gruene.at](mailto:thomas.waitz@gruene.at)