

## **Conciliation Panel Report on the “EGP Committee Proposal to Withdraw Membership from De Groenen, the Netherlands”, from 24 August 2017.**

### **I. Introduction:**

In its document “EGP Committee Proposal for Membership Withdrawal from De Groenen, the Netherlands” (hereafter called “The EGP Committee Proposal”) dated 24 August 2017, the EGP Committee formally notified the Member Parties of its proposal to withdraw membership from the Dutch party De Groenen. The EGP Committee formally informed both “factions” of De Groenen of its decision, on 22 August 2017, by email and by a registered letter.

On 16 September 2017 the Conciliation Panel received a request from Jozef van Kessel, signing as De Groenen, to be heard by the Conciliation Panel on the “EGP Committee Proposal” which he strongly opposed.

On 23 September 2017 the Conciliation Panel received another request to be heard by the Conciliation Panel from Otto ter Haar, signing as Chair of the board of De Groenen, who also protested strongly against the “EGP Committee Proposal”.

The Conciliation Panel decided to invite both groups i.e; “factions” to Brussels for an exchange of views. On 4 October 2017 (AM) a meeting was held with a delegation led by Jolanda Verburg, also in the company of Jozef van Kessel, Mirjam van Rijn and Ronald Schönberger.

On 30 October 2017(PM) a separate meeting was held with Otto ter Haar and Rijndert Doting.

The Conciliation Panel also asked for and held a meeting with the Secretary General and with one member of the EGP Committee on 30 October 2017 (AM) in Brussels.

After each meeting with both “factions” the Conciliation Panel held its own evaluation meeting. Afterwards we received additional documents from both “factions”, which sought to contradict the evidence of the EGP Committee and disprove certain statements in the EGP Committee report.

### **II. Process:**

The Conciliation Panel has listened carefully to all participants in the different meetings and has studied the additional documents. On the basis of all information received, orally and in writing, we can confirm the following:

1. With regard to the substance of the matter, and especially point 1. Article 2: Membership Criteria, EGP Rule Book, in the “EGP Committee Proposal” with a 2 column text, the Conciliation Panel has not found evidence that contradicts the comments made by the EGP Committee.
2. However, some statements need to be changed/corrected, as listed here:
  - The number of members of “De Groenen” is 37 (36 have paid their membership fee for 2017, 1 member is suspended) as of 4 November 2017
  - De Groenen did not form a coalition with the Piratenpartij (the Pirates Party) at any elections, but they collaborated with them for the elections of the Water Board in 2015.
  - There is a registration with the Chamber of Commerce of the political organisation called “De Groenen” dating from September 2017. De Groenen are indeed registered as a “political group” with De Kiesraad (Election Council of the Netherlands) for the purpose of participating in the elections for the European

Parliament, but not yet as a “political group” for the purpose of participating in elections for the Tweede Kamer, (national parliament).

### **III. Conclusions:**

The Conciliation Panel has unanimously come to the following conclusions:

1. Having gone through the “EGP Committee Proposal”, the annexes and the relevant articles in the Statutes and in the Rule book, the Conciliation Panel can state that as far as procedure is concerned, there has been no infringement of the Rules by the EGP Committee. Also, we have given ample opportunity to all parties concerned to explain and defend their case to us.
2. The additional documents that were received by the Conciliation Panel from the 2 “factions” do not change the substance of the comments from the EGP Committee. The Conciliation Panel has not found evidence that would invalidate the reasoning in the EGP Committee Proposal”.
3. **The “EGP Committee Proposal” can therefore be put to the Council delegates for their deliberation and for a vote.**

Brussels, 19 November 2017  
Sergi Alegre and Frieda Jans,  
Co-chairs.