

Draft Minutes

Online Compromise Amendments Sessions took place between Wednesday 2 and Saturday 5 December to work on the tabled amendments on the draft resolutions.

Saturday, 5 December 2020

Plenary

Opening of the Council

11:30 - 12:15

Speakers:

- **Thomas Waitz**, Co-Chair of the European Green Party, MEP Greens/EFA in EP (Austria)
- **Małgorzata Tracz**, Co-Chair of Partia Zieloni, Poland
- **Wojciech Kubalewski**, Co-Chair of Partia Zieloni, Poland
- **Urszula Zielińska**, MP, Partia Zieloni, Poland
- **Adam Bodnar**, Commissioner for Human Rights, Poland

Thomas Waitz opens the 32nd Council of the European Green Party. He introduces three key learnings from the COVID-19 pandemic. Austerity measures after the financial crisis led to a decrease in investment and public funding in the healthcare sector. He stresses healthcare is a public good and needs to be well-funded. Secondly, he argues we need to rethink globalisation in several key areas. We need to relocalise those sectors that deliver public goods to citizens. The third learning he highlights is the importance of solidarity in our society. Member States have increased their cooperation to stem the crisis together, for example by taking out common loans and offering support to those most in need in the form of grants. These loans will be mostly paid back by new generations, so we need to ensure that these funds are invested in the green transition of our economies and societies. Waitz indicates that this solidarity also manifests in our daily lives, where the elderly are heavily affected and frontline workers deserve our full respect. He closes by thanking all Green family members for their hard work, motivation and dedication. Waitz thanks the Polish Greens for co-hosting this online autumn Council and hopes that we can meet again in person next year.

Małgorzata Tracz greets all participants to the 32nd Council and is thankful for co-hosting the event. She names the pandemic and its related challenges, such as the crisis of public services, the resistance of our economies, the growing support for populist parties in various parts of Europe, and the urgent issue of the climate disaster that stands before Europe and our green family. She emphasises that it is not just a question of how to get out of the current crisis, but how to prepare for the next ones to come. The Green family gives hope to Europeans for a safe and green tomorrow, based on solidarity, on well-funded public services, on green jobs, on a crisis-resistant green economy based on European values such as freedom, equality and empathy.

Wojciech Kubalewski welcomes all participants to Poland. He highlights how the measures after the economic crisis of 2008 have only deepened the crisis, favoring large companies and financial markets. This weakened economy is now hit by the economic impact of the

pandemic, with grave results for people, governments, banks, and producers. The response of the EU, with the European Green Deal, is a good first step but not far-reaching enough for the European Greens. Kubalewski then questions the effectiveness of the EU's new agricultural policy and its effect on the pace of soil degradation, water depletion and the drastic effects of climate change. He lays out how the Polish Greens observe the social and economic situation in Poland with tension, but that they continue to persuade, inform and demand change. He stresses how they would not be able to be as effective without the support of the European Green family. He is grateful for all the help, support and advice.

Urszula Zielińska is thankful for the opportunity to come together at this time, when the climate emergency, the drought, the heat, the migration crisis, the populism divisions, and now the pandemic are plaguing the old world. There is need to change the way we live our lives, need to listen to science, even if what we need to do is difficult. To cope and keep going, we need hope for a better day and a belief that this is achievable. She highlights how it is the role of Greens to give people hope and positive stories about our futures. Stories that tackle emissions and the virus. Stories that protect nature and strengthen local businesses and communities. She is grateful that many offered their time to build those stories of hope together over the next few days.

Adam Bodnar thanks for the invitation and outlines why Poland should be of special interest to European politicians, due to the situation around the rule of law and the rights of women and vulnerable minorities. Poland is experiencing a difficult time, as the current ruling majority is challenging the guarantees of the rule of law. All Member States should respect the rule of law, in order to cooperate with other members and guarantee rights of individuals. He expects further action from the Commission and stresses that it needs to be clear that Polish judges are European judges who respect the same values. He then moves to the importance of the protection of LGBT rights and the attempts of far right movements to frame this as an ideology and restrict it in communities. Bodnar then highlights the attacks on women's rights and reproductive rights, also in view of the involvement of the Catholic church in Polish politics. Their influence on people's private lives is too big and they should be held more accountable. He highlights the important judgement of the Constitutional court regarding abortion rights and the subsequent demonstrations. The ruling party should not use the Constitutional Court to achieve its political purposes and we should put a stop to undemocratic practices. In his years as ombudsman, Bodnar underlines that he worked to safeguard rights and freedoms. He has a vision of a strong European integration, not only in regard to rule of law, but also to future challenges such as new technologies and climate change. In order to do this, Poland must have an accountable government that respects rule of law principles, that protects minorities and women's rights, and that builds trust between its citizens and the government. He hopes that the EGP Council's consultations, discussions and visions of Poland and the EU will contribute to this discussion.

Plenary

Meet the Polish Greens

12:15 - 13:00

Speakers:

- **Sylwia Spurek**, Member of the European Parliament, Greens/EFA in EP, Poland
- **Krzysztof Rzyman**, Member of the national council, Partia Zieloni, Poland
- **Tomasz Aniśko**, Member of the Parliament, Partia Zieloni, Poland
- **Urszula Zielińska**, Member of the Parliament, Partia Zieloni, Poland

- **Radosław Gawlik**, Partia Zieloni, co-founder and member, Poland
- **Przemysław Słowik**, municipal councillor of Szczecin, Poland
- **Dorota Grzeszczak**, local councillor, Szprotawa, Poland
- **Laura Kwoczała**, activist, board member & spokesperson of Polish Young Greens
- **Wiktor Miazek**, Chairperson of Polish Young Greens

After a brief introduction from the studio in Warsaw by Krzysztof Rzyman and Urszula Zielińska, **Radosław Gawlik**, co-founder of the Polish Greens, opens the session. Originally under the name Zieloni 2004, the party was founded by feminist and LGBT+ activists in 2003 with the support of European Green parties. The European orientation of the party was highlighted in the name of the party as 2004 refers to the European Parliamentary elections of that year. The party's efforts bore fruit in 2019 when Zieloni elected its first 3 Members of Parliament to the Sejm, the lower house of the Polish parliament. He notes that the party was avant-garde in its agenda setting, as evidenced by most major parties embracing the environmental agenda in some form by 2020, and by the environmental struggle becoming more prevalent over time. He welcomes the fact that the EU is providing more and more funds to climate related causes and that the Polish public understands the importance of tackling climate change even if the current Polish government does not share the feeling of urgency of the issue. He closes by praising the tenacity of the feminist pro-choice demonstrators on the streets of Poland against restrictive family planning measures by the government.

Sylwia Spurek, MEP of the Greens/EFA in EP takes the stage. She emphasises the importance of tackling the climate crisis alongside protecting human and animal rights in Europe, and underlines the interlinkages between these issues. She further notes that the Greens are the only political family in Europe independent of big businesses. Spurek reminisces how her experiences as a human rights lawyer helping victims of domestic violence and as the first female deputy Ombudsman of Poland led her to run for and occupy a political office, and eventually join the Greens. She notes that in countries where Greens are not so strong they need to cherish their values and they should not compromise on their fundamental principles. "Greens or death!" - she concludes.

The mic passes on to **Urszula Zielińska**, Member of the Sejm from Partia Zieloni. She tells her personal story leading her to the Green party from being a student to becoming an MP. She returned to Poland from abroad in difficult times to represent her values, and now as MP her main goal is to turn the Ministry of the Environment and Climate truly green.

It is **Krzysztof Rzyman's** turn to speak. He joined the Polish Greens in early 2020 and was a candidate for parliament for the party in 2019. He introduces himself as an economist, author, podcaster and an economic journalist, who now runs a sustainable and environmentally friendly business, and a podcast studio utilised by WWF Poland.

Tomasz Aniśko, Member of the Sejm continues the line of introductions. He joined the Green Party in 2018 because he did not want to remain a spectator in the regressive process that is taking place in Poland. He participated in all campaigns since and in 2019 he was elected member of the Sejm from the rural South Western part of Poland. He expresses hope that Greens can speak to and mobilise the rural electorate as well alongside the urban population, and that more people who are new to politics like himself will join the party along the way. He works on agricultural, forestry, maritime and spatial management issues in the Sejm, which is a direct follow up of his previous work in the civic sector. Moreover, he mentions that the local Polish Greens have very good cross border cooperation with the German Greens.

Deputy mayor of Szprotawa **Dorota Grzeszczak** explains she was a chemistry teacher before becoming involved in local politics in 2019. She works on social matters and education, and lists some of the initiatives she oversaw in the previous year, such as improving accessibility of public institutions and regenerating local green areas. She finishes by presenting Szprotawa.

Local councillor of Szczecin, **Przemysław Słowik** continues by looking back on his path to an elected office and discussing the pejorative meaning the words politics and politician carry in Poland, which he aims to change. Moving on, he showcases the local projects he has been active in since his election in 2018 and explains why he joined the Green Party once his liberal party ceased to exist.

Laura Kwoczała from the Polish Green Party's youth organisation talks about her experiences as one of the initiators of the legal abortion movement that was founded to resist oppressive measures by the government aimed at tightening access to family planning, about her organisation's campaign for the dismissal of the incumbent youth rights ombudsman and her activism in general.

Finally, **Wiktor Miazek** takes the floor, the chairperson of the Polish Young Greens, who also introduces the audience to his activist experience.

At the end of the session questions from the audience are answered by the speakers. **Sylwia Spurek** talks about the potential impact Members of the European Parliament can have domestically and on domestic legislation, and about why it is important to hear feminist voices in Poland; **Dorota Grzeszczak** and **Przemysław Słowik** talk about perceptions of the Green Party locally and if they face any hostilities; **Wiktor Miazek** and **Laura Kwoczała** discuss the difficulties youth organisations face under the COVID-19 pandemic and the plans of the Polish Young Greens for 2021; while **Tomasz Aniśko** reflects on his experiences and difficulties as an opposition member of the Sejm competing with the government who does not care for the opposition's position or compromises.

Plenary

Towards a Just Transition: How to ensure Climate Neutrality and Social Justice?

16:30-18:00

Speakers:

- **Bas Eikhout**, MEP, Greens/EFA Group in the EP, Netherlands
- **Simona Fabiani**, Italian General Confederation of Labour (CGIL), Italy
- **Jerzy Hubka**, Vice-Chairman of the Inter-Enterprise Miners Union, Poland
- **Jelle Boone**, Spokesperson for the office of Zakia Khattabi, Minister of Climate, Environment, Sustainable Development and the Green Deal, Belgium
- **Miłoslawa Stępień**, Chair of the association Akcja Konin, Social and Climate Activist, Poland

Moderator: **Jean Lambert**, EGP Committee Member, UK

Jean Lambert presents the theme for the discussion: how do we (as Greens) make the current proposals from the European Union work in a way which puts us on a path towards climate neutrality, but also works for the communities and workers who are most affected? She also wants to particularly discuss the coal sector in Poland.

Jerzy Hubka (video intervention on how a green transition might impact his mining community): Through his friend, Andrzej Chwiluk, who served as a member of the European Economic and Social Committee and was President of the National Council of Polish Miners Trade Union, he met with Greta Thunberg. Although initially they had heated arguments, eventually this led to understanding and real discussion. He realised only direct conversation brings understanding and this motivated him to take action. "How can the mining sector be persuaded to change?" From the perspective of the miners, for years they have been manipulated and exploited by every Polish government, across the political spectrum. Before, the politicians glorified the hard work of the miners, being instrumental in helping to rebuild Warsaw after WWII, and contributing to the Polish economy for decades. But today, the miners are treated as a necessary evil. He believes the miners would be willing to change their profession and would be happy to work in the renewable energy sector and contribute to green investment, if they are offered jobs with a secure income that is similar to their current income, and as long as they are supported at every step along the transition path, treated as subjects of the transition, not merely as objects.

"How to gain the trust of the miners?" It is crucial to overcome the mistrust that has been built up over the years. Miners and their families do care about the environment whenever possible (green parks, allotment gardens, recreation sites...) The miners also contributed to the development of hospitals, kindergartens, day-cares, housing, health centres and ski resorts. However, this property was taken away from the miners through no fault of their own and they were deprived of their dignity and work ethic. **Jerzy Hubka** proposes a "small Marshall Plan". Secure incomes must be assured and any losses compensated. Support and security at every stage of the transition must be offered. The miners deserve honest conversations that include a wide-range of people they can trust. Work councils to represent the miners should be established. Long term plans must be developed that include local communities and a new structure be established to provide oversight of the transition. Miners must be involved in this process.

Jean Lambert next has a question to Bas: what is the European Commission (EC) putting forward in its Green New Deal and Just Transition proposal, and is this serious or merely Greenwashing?

Bas Eickhout: begins that when the EC launched the European Green Deal, they were really putting an emphasis on changing the economy, right from the start so that in this transition no one should be left behind. He believes the EC takes the transition serious, but the big question is what will the final outcome be when this goes through the EU's compromise machine. He reminds that when the proposal for the Green Deal was published in January of 2020, immediately different Member States were fighting to get an even share of that money. Everyone realizes countries are very different. You can wonder whether a country like Germany or the Netherlands is in need of money for this transition. Secondly, the region that is given just transition funds, should be in a serious transition. Not only coal, though coal regions is where transition aid is needed first. The core starting point is that the region commits to a coal phase-out in order to receive transition money. Third, when there is access to new funds many players jump in and want a portion. In the European Parliament, initially the idea of just transition was that it should be money invested in the social infrastructure of these regions -- however, now the gas lobby also sees potential to get money out of the Just Transition fund because gas is better than coal. So, it becomes a classic fight over money, with industry also fighting over the money. So, yes, the Commission's proposal is a sincere start, but lawmakers on the Member State and European Parliament side are slowing down and weakening the Just Transition fund; the European Parliament included gas as a beneficiary of the Just Transition funds. The initial idea is slowly drifting away, and this is a key concern.

Jean Lamberts gives the floor to Simona, to ask how important the Green Deal is for the trade union movement in the EU, as many of the ideas for the Just Transition came from the Trade Union movement.

Simona Fabiani: The Just Transition is very important for the trade union movement. Simona agrees with its principles and goals and also much of the strategy; the EU diversity strategy, the Farm2Fork strategy, and the climate law. However, we have to be sure that the goal will be achieved. It will not be easy – the Green Deal is a radical and deep transformation of our society and will need a lot of money but money alone is not enough. The Just Transition mechanism is limited because priority of the mechanism is for the regions deeply linked to fossil fuels, especially coal and lignite. The kind of transformation we have in mind is not just decarbonisation but also sustainable development that changes everything, so all sectors of the economy must be engaged; agriculture, energy intensive industry, automotive and collective transport. We need a Just Transition that can ensure that workers are protected in all economic sectors. Many things still must be done, at the EU level and at the state level. States especially have a great responsibility.

Jean Lamberts asks Jelle Boone whether the COVID crisis might push this Just Transition progress off course. For example, she notes that with the 2008 recession we saw promising steps in terms of energy efficiency and energy independence initially, but very quickly this seems to have gone back to business as usual. Is there a similar risk of this happening with the Just Transition movement?

Jelle Boone apologises Zakia Khattabi who is ill; he will speak on her behalf but will not be able to engage in the debate. In reply to Jean's question he believes that rather than continue with business-as-usual, the COVID crisis is an opportunity to move forward with the transition agenda, because many lessons can be learned from the crisis. We have experienced the limits of our globalised economy and economic models, such as the shortage of the masks. But also the loss of biodiversity as an accelerator of such viruses. He points out that the first victims and the most affected by the health crisis are the same as those that will be most affected by climate impacts. So possible solutions to the crisis are also what ecologists are already advocating for, like re-localisation and resilience of our economies. And that social and environmental justice are inseparable. Based on this the recovery should allow us to plan a new industrialisation process on a European scale, at least for vital functions like health care, food and clothing. He concludes we must invest in the shortest possible and realistic projects.

Jean Lamberts: If done right, this can interlock. There is a requirement that some of the money be spent on specific things, like climate. But are these conditionalities effective, or are we just bailing out industries and are there real conditionalities?

Bas Eickhout: It is for the first time ever that there is a serious discussion about a European investment plan. Even the usually reluctant Netherlands agreed in July this crisis warranted investing together in the recovery. A lot of hard work was needed to achieve this and the Just Transition fund got smaller during the process, but it is important to realise we have a serious European investment plan for the first time ever with the priorities to invest in the Green Deal and Digitalisation. So even with the negative consequences of Corona, there are signs that learning and development is happening on the part of governments. For the entire recovery package, heads of state determined that 30% of the Multiannual Financial Framework should go to climate projects and the Green Deal. The European Parliament ensured this money would go to climate and biodiversity. But the real question is, what does the 30% mean? The default attitude, also of the European Commission, is to use tracking methods that have been

criticised – for example including spending on agriculture as a climate investment. Greens have been very critical of these methods, and even the Court of Auditors has made the point very clearly that if the EU keeps the current method of counting climate, then on paper its 30% but in reality it's not at all close, and this means we are not changing our economy, and not changing towards a climate neutral economy. So we are in an ongoing fight to change this tracking methodology, although even the Commission realises that this method is outdated.

Jean Lamberts agrees with Bas this is a work in progress. Jean then asks Miłka how prepared Poland is to channel money towards spending on climate and biodiversity measures?

Miłosława Stępień considers this to be a very a difficult question since she works mostly from a regional perspective with a regional government engaged in lignite mining and in the just transition process. Her region, Eastern Greater Poland, one of the smaller lignite regions, is developing a proposal for submission to the European Commission for climate neutrality by 2040 commitment, which is one of the most ambitious plans in Poland. Because it is smaller they managed to get to a point where they are a pioneer of just transition in Poland. However, one of the major issues is that the funding for her region is continually cut. Or how the percentages of the funding are being changed; dependent on two aspects, one being that there is continual change in how the money is allocated at the European level and how much money is allocated to different regions, while the other issue is that the Polish government is unable to give a climate goal or commitment to a climate goal. She believes Poland may end up similar to the US, in that there is no national commitment, while most regional governments are already going through transition processes, preparing plans for coal phase out. She would like the European level to take into account that regional governments may be more willing to take action and work towards climate goals, and it would be a shame if their funding is cut simply because of unwilling national governments. At the same time, there is a huge danger that national governments will attempt to centralise these funds and use them for example for modernisation of the energy grid or for helping big industry and national companies to modernise or switch to gas or nuclear power. Current Polish government plans include six nuclear power plants by 2060, which is very difficult in terms of economy. It is crucial this danger is addressed in the Just Transition mechanism and in other similar programmes which aim to support regions like hers.

Jean Lamberts asks Simona about the Italian context: how prepared is the Italian government to move towards reducing its climate emissions and ensuring money is spent on genuine projects dealing with climate change and biodiversity? Or is it similar to Poland where the regions are moving ahead, but the national government still is not sure what it is doing?

Simona Fabiani has some doubts that the government is able to plan for such radical change, because the government right now does not have a long term strategy for climate. The current climate and energy plan is not in line with the EU goals and there is no plan on adaptation for climate change, nor a democratic process to discuss the just transition. It is not clear what the Italian government can really do in relation to the recovery plan. A lot of money is already being spent for the covid crisis, a lot of laws are passed to restore enterprises that are facing the economic consequences of the covid crisis, and a lot of money will be used with the conditionalities. The Italian government could put conditionalities on the enterprises to engage in ecological activities and decarbonisation – but that is not happening; all this money has been spent without conditionality. She also states that Carbon Capture and Sequestration (CCS) is not the solution in the opinion of her trade union. Instead, investing in renewable energy and energy efficiency, and restoring and protecting ecosystems should be prioritised. Her union has given a document to the Italian parliament to outline their priorities for the green recovery, which includes five points: health, instruction, decarbonisation and environmental

protection, sustainable jobs, and infrastructure for digitalisation. It is not clear what the government will prioritise and what they will present in the next days. She hopes for a democratic discussion on this issue, but she is not sure if this will be possible.

Jean Lamberts notes there are many lost opportunities here, especially in light of the fact that Italy would have been a co-host of COP26 this year, and even the UK's government has taken steps. But what about Belgium? Is there hope now that Greens are in government as well? What are the realities for Belgium when trying to make these changes and move forward with spending these funds?

Jelle Boone: They are blessed to have five Green ministers at the Federal level in Belgium, who are in charge of the different Green core competences like energy, mobility, and Zakia's competences which include climate, sustainable development, environment and Green Deal. On the other hand, the nature of the Belgian coalitions in both regional and federal levels mean compromises will have to be made, which is essentially a national sport (the "waffle technique"). The national government is quite green and ambitious, but depends also on the ambition of regional governments, so when the new Federal government took government on the 1st of October, they started drafting a national recovery and resilience plan to be submitted to the European Commission. So Zakia was already able to influence the methodology and design for this process and she was represented in the steering committee and high level working groups for the plan development. Apart from the ambitious plan of the Federal government, the European level remains the best political ally, referring to the European roadmap, and the EU principles of do no harm, do not roll back, and leave no one behind, which are guarantees that Minister Khattabi probably could not have imposed herself at the national level. He concludes that in Belgium they have only just gotten started, and thus they are very hopeful that they can maintain the ambition, but that the proof of the pudding is always in the eating.

Jean Lamberts: It's interesting to see that for governments which want to go further and are more ambitious, the European level is actually providing a pull. With this pull as well as a push coming from the region then the two together could have a real influence on government. Question from the audience to Bas and Miłka: according to the EU's critical raw materials strategy the Commission wants to promote metal mining, such as cobalt, nickel, lithium, etc within Europe, and with a special focus on regions in transition. How do we respond to that since mining is of course a dirty industry and often come from areas with serious human rights abuses, but we also need these metals, so there is a strong argument to source these in Europe. Where does this fit with a just transition?

Miłosława Stępień: She wants to highlight the environmental problems associated especially with open pit mining, but also shaft mining, which is loss of water. She explains that Poland is a region which is threatened by serious drought and lack of water in the future, so pushing for more mining in this area is counterproductive to the whole transition process. In her region for example it was officially decided that two planned open pit mines will not be opened, and instead they are moving away from open-pit mining. If open pit mining in such areas is continued only the energy plants issue is solved, but leaving the water-based problems in these regions unsolved. In Poland this would be in the region of Bełchatów which has the largest energy plants and some of the largest open pit coal mines, and also her own region, which experiences climate related drought.

Bas Eickhout: Indeed, this is one of the biggest dangers we are seeing and Milka's example is very illustrative that we really, as a whole European Union, need to think of what we mean with climate neutrality by 2050 and this transition. Too often people throw in this promise without

thinking about the consequences. Climate neutrality will require a truly huge shift of our economy, absolutely worthwhile to pursue, but it will only be a success if Europe as a whole works in this direction, and thinks strategically about what this means for all the different sectors of our economy. Climate neutrality is not just about one sector and if we do not do it correctly then we will create more problems. This is why the Green Deal is not only a climate agenda but is also about Circular Economy, in which the aim is to reuse much more of the resources again and again, and minimise waste flows and avoiding primary resource extraction. Europe is finally realising it needs a serious industrial strategy, which was something that ten years ago only the Greens were using. But the general liberal approach thought it would be best to avoid government intervention in private business. He thinks we are finally moving away from this. It is also an example of how challenging and complicated but also good this transition can be if we do it right, although the "if" is a big one. But he thinks we can still do it – although of course with a few more Greens in government it would be easier.

Jean Lamberts: When we look at regions where we want to change one industry in a just way, what are they key things that make it a just transition?

Simona Fabiani: First of all, participation is needed, because when you are changing life in a region, economic and social, you have to engage also the community, trade unions, local authorities, local researchers, all the people in the area, and especially the workers. Secondly, if you have to close or transform some activities you have to create new jobs. You have to give people who are losing their jobs another opportunity. So for example if Italy phases out coal by 2025, then we have to plan what we want to do when we close these plants and build new opportunities and new jobs as well as use the next years as a time to create the new skills needed by the workers. There is also a need for a universal safety net and lifelong learning opportunities for the new jobs. But this is not what's happening, there is not sufficient planning for the future. Instead, often the only solution on the table for coal plant closures is a gas plant – of course just another fossil fuel plant and not decarbonisation, so this is not the situation we want. But, sometimes this is the only real opportunity / option for the workers. She says this is also a contradiction within the trade union movement. We know that in a sustainable model there are a lot more jobs than the ones we lose in the unsustainable system, but we have to make sure these jobs are in the same region and in the same timeframe – so that we ensure the workers have their needed income.

Jean Lamberts comments that to deliver the just transition is a big package. If we are looking at this as a government, one of the things Jerzy raised in the video was the question of trust, that people must trust that authorities will deliver. And, if that's not happening then it's no surprise workers fight for the jobs they currently have. So, how can we develop, narrow or close the trust divide between workers and communities and the government?

Jelle Boone: We can learn from what was called "reconversion" in the 80s and the 90s, where for example the Belgian sectors like coal, ship building, glass packaging, textile industry, steel industry, etc were transformed and reconverted into other economic activities. He continues that if, sectors are given a decade to transform to meet objectives, and a reconversion fund is set up to help re-skill workers for jobs in the new industry, such as renewable energy and circular economy, if the next industrial activities are being anticipated you can convince existing workforces that a shift will be good for them. But to do so, it is crucial to have good allies and work closely with trade unions.

Jean Lamberts: question from the audience: when we talk about accelerating the transition within the EU, what about the wider neighborhood, like the Western Balkans, or other regions where if we look at this as a global initiative then what might we need to do?

Bas Eickhout: This is a very good question since we hope that the whole world will engage in this transition, and that Europe can lead, but that in the end this is a challenge for the whole world and at the core of sustainable development. Indeed, he says Europe has a specific responsibility on this topic, especially within our neighborhood policy, certainly in regards to countries which we would like to see become part of the EU. He gives the example of North Macedonia which is being blocked by Bulgaria. When talking about how we can ensure the transition, we're also talking about really reaching the people, and making sure these efforts don't just get stuck at the level of the government. Regarding the issue of trust, in Europe we have two major problems that are not so easy to solve: the first is that Europe is too oriented along national member states, but when talking about trust, there is so much movement and change happening at the regional and local level and this is true for almost every country in the EU, whereas the national level is polarised and stuck. So as long as Europe or Brussels only negotiates with the national level governments, we will have a big problem. He also links this to the rule of law debate and the budget, because working with regional governments might provide a way forward. Maybe Europe should not only negotiate with the capitals. The second issue, is that when we are discussing how to make sure that people profit from the just transition, we must bear in mind that a just transition fund, no matter how big, will never replace the financial flows needed to lead to a more equal society, for this we must rely on taxation. So as long as taxation is only nationally oriented, countries will continue competing with each other to attract companies and as a result the taxes on these big corporates are going down as well as the tax base, and thus the reaction of the governments is to tax other things like consumption and labour. This uneven distribution in our societies continues to be reinforced, as long as we do not look at how we might overhaul our tax system. This he concludes, is the real problem and no fund can solve this alone.

Jean Lamberts asks Simona to comment on Bas' statement.

Simona Fabiani: Of course, fiscal reform is really important, and in Italy her trade union is asking for this as well. In Italy they have tax evasion of 1 billion euros every year, but no real progressive change to taxes which is something they are demanding. However, at the same time, we need an environmentally-oriented fiscal reform, because we need to tax products based on carbon emissions and the environmental pollution. The Italian government spends a lot of money on fossil fuel and environmentally harmful subsidies, and she thinks this money should instead be used for environmental reconversion of the economy, keeping in mind social justice, environmental and climate action, as well as human rights and the other SDGs (the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals).

Jean Lamberts moves to another question: how the subsidies and imports of products are linked to environmental impacts, and what the Greens can do about imports and emissions from outside, as well the exports of waste to countries in the global south and how this fits the wider view of just transition which was discussed.

Bas Eickhout: This is a key question because the Europeans try to claim very proudly that our footprint is declining, but we forget to count everything we are importing which contributes to our footprint; especially European companies are complicit in this. Greens hope the European Commission will also pick this up. The discussion needed for a better industrial strategy in Europe is crucial, as is due diligence and responsibility of the companies throughout the chain of production. This Green agenda must be the overarching principle because only cleaning up Europe's backyard is by far insufficient when the global community needs to be climate neutral in a couple of decades.

Jean Lamberts: There are some governments that still don't fully seem to understand what the just transition means. And some trade unions are still not fully engaged in just transition. Are we asking people to make a change that many people actually do not understand? Are we as a society really ready for change and if not how can we fix this?

Miłosława Stępień: She responds it's something she has thought about a lot. These changes are happening very fast – two years ago no one in her region was talking about phasing out coal. Her region is at the forefront in Poland of moving toward climate neutrality and closing open-pit mines, and as a result there is a wide variety of reactions. She reminds these places have been struggling and going downhill for the last 30 years, as there has been restructuring of the coal industry and energy plants, less and less people employed, etc. So what is happening now is also a chance for such regions. Regarding the issue of trust, transparency is extremely important and transparency of the decision-making process is something that is lacking, no one knows which decisions will be made where; at the regional, national or European level. Another issue is that greenwashing also blurs the process further, so that at the ground level it is even harder to know who is making decisions and how funds will be decided – and this causes a lot of mistrust in the change process. It is obvious that people who will be losing their jobs are worried when they don't know the direction things will go, so it is important that at all levels of governance we develop a clearer message. The trust issue is super important but also very difficult especially in the given political landscape. Most political parties think short term and in terms of big investments. But the type of transformation we need now is rather about a whole lot of complicated small changes, like agriculture, water, industry, and taking a different stance on the economy to introduce a real circular economy and avoid greenwashing. An example of greenwashing is the waste incineration plant in her region, funding through the just transition fund is being discussed without understanding that this is not part of circular economy, and should not be part of long term planning but is a flashy investment which others are trying to sell as green. She thinks regional and national governments in for example Poland, are definitely not prepared to handle the just transition, so progressive green ideas are entirely new to them, even though they are learning super fast. So she thinks the process of change and of raising awareness has sped up, because people are more aware and people in Poland are more aware of climate change, while voters are pushing for a more serious approach to climate. And so she does think this is a message of hope that changes are starting to happen faster, even if as Greens we know it should be even faster.

Jean Lamberts asks Simona whether she thinks there is a real understanding of the changes that need to be made, and how trade unions could help develop this understanding.

Simona Fabiani thanks Milka for the hope message as she herself is not so positive, but she thinks that society and trade unions are ready for change. Time is the problem, we have no time left; the political procedures and media, institutions etc are not in line with the little time left to make these changes. Although people are aware of the changes we need to make, she is less sure that people are really able to make some hard changes, such as reduce consumption, cut car use and eat less meat, and so on. As the CCGL, they are working hard to reinforce their alliances and work with environmental organisations, social movements, and the Fridays for Future movement, to keep the reality and the engagement on social justice and climate justice and environmental protection to make change. But this is very difficult and it is a long process, even though we don't have time at our disposal. But if we can work together then maybe we can still have success.

Jean Lamberts directs the next questions to the Belgian government, whether society really understand this need for change?

Jelle Boone thinks that society still needs to learn that there are a lot of trends that can turn into a crisis, which we unfortunately experienced with the COVID crisis – something like this had been anticipated by science for the last ten years. Planetary boundaries, can be exceeded very quickly in the short term. He goes on that Minister Khattabi thinks that politicians and leadership in Belgium really need to do more and make unpopular decisions, to show leadership but also explain to people with science why people need to change and how they can do so. So taking civil participation into account at all levels of government is something Minister Khattabi is working for and strongly believes in, and we are also optimistic even though as Green parties, being optimistic should not be a moral duty for us as well.

Jean Lambert asks Bas if being optimistic should be a moral duty for a Green politician?

Bas Eickhout thinks in the end it is, because even though Greens are also known for always complaining that measures taken are not enough, having a message of hope and optimism in the end is crucial, as long as it is of course not too naive. Optimism is very important to realise change when inviting people to change. He believes society is ready for change, more than ever. It fits the message of hope, because the problem is not with society; support for policies that are green-oriented is huge. People do know something needs to change and the video statement from Jerzy really shows this – people may think that a mine worker would never acknowledge this change, but of course they do, and you see this across sectors. There are also not many farmers who are happy with the current agricultural system, but they are forced to. Although there is a lot of support for change, there are also some key things we need to do to strengthen this support. First, we have to ensure the transition is fair – people need to feel that everyone is going along with the change, and that both people and companies are paying for the change. Second, people need to be involved in modern society where we expect that politicians are honest and explain when there is doubt, because people want to be taken seriously. Third, we should not underestimate the level of resistance that will come from the vested interests – we are moving from a fossil economy to a new economy, and there remains a huge vested interest which we need to overcome. Not underestimating this political fight is the key challenge for Greens, labour union, etc.

Jean Lamberts: To reach the goals we have for the Just Transition, it's not just about the money but also about the process of that change, and that this trust must be earned – people are willing to make this change if the conditions are right and if they see that the process is fair, that there is transparency and that they are taken seriously.

Plenary

Challenges and pathways in Europe's rule of law crisis

18:30 - 20:00

Speakers:

- **Matthew Caruana Galizia**, Journalist, Malta
- **Gwendoline Delbos-Corfield**, MEP, Greens/EFA in EP, France
- **Benedek Jávor**, Head of Representation of Budapest to the EU, Hungary
- **Laurent Pech**, Professor of European Law and Head of the Law and Politics Department at Middlesex University London
- **Sylwia Spurek**, MEP, Greens/EFA in EP, Poland
- **Alma Zadić**, Minister of Justice, Austria

- **Sandra Regol**, Deputy National Secretary, EELV, France
- **Irina Sukhy**, Spokesperson of the Belarusian Green Party

Moderator: **Evelyne Huytebroeck**, Co-chair, European Green Party, Belgium

Matthew Caruana Galizia; Sees freedom of expression as a fundamental human right. If you can't express yourself freely, then all other rights are useless. With his mother as a journalist, he saw all the threats she faced making her work so difficult. She worked to reveal the corruption of the government, and she was assassinated for it. Working on a project that is so effective that the government is trying to shut it down. Hopefully working towards a Europe where murders like the one of his mother don't happen. We need institutions with real teeth that can actually clamp down, and we currently don't have that. Everything is too political, should not be left up to political parties. The foundation set up in the memory of his mother is working to strengthen those institutions so that not just journalists bear the burden of exposing corruption, such as EU Prosecutor.

Gwendoline Delbos-Corfield; The Rule of law instrument is not a magical instrument. This can be deficient if no one wants to do it. In all democratic groups, you have people fighting for this. But every time, councils fail to use it. One day, we hope this democracy will be mature and won't be ruled by unanimity and negotiations. What we need for the moment is people who will act with the tools that exist. The misuse of the European money is what helped people like Orban in Hungary to become oligarchs and for example buy the media and dictate the narrative. The European Greens will always be on the forefront of these fights. What we need also is awareness. We need the people to understand what is happening. We need to be able to understand that when rule of law is under threat in one place then we are all threatened. We must put an end to this rule of law deterioration everywhere.

Benedek Jávör; This didn't start with the COVID crisis, it was just an opportunity to manipulate the situation. Last year there local elections were held in Hungary, the democratic opposition got some gains. Authoritarian governments began undermining the legitimacy of local governments, by cutting funding and cutting taxes. Municipalities and governments are fighting back. In the past 10 years, if Orban was aggressive enough, he got what he wanted. They need the EU to stand firmly behind the rule of law mechanism proposal. Not to only oppose those governments but to find allies within those countries.

Laurent Pech; The current rule of law crisis – rule of law backsliding - is a threat to the EU legal order. This process began in Hungary in 2010. There are those giving the illusion that Hungary is a democracy – but elections do not qualify as democratic, and benefit the ruling party. He argues the same for Poland. Appointments of fake judges and fake courts, as well as the public broadcaster - to shape the narrative. Autocrats tend to take on state sponsored hate campaigns (i.e. anti-LGBT campaigns). The EU legal order is based on a premise to ensure member states to uphold the same basic values. This premise is violated now daily in Poland and Hungary. Rule of law backsliding should be tackled head on. No more dialogue, but prompt legal action and financial sanction, unless the EU will become a union that holds authoritarian regimes.

Sylwia Spurek; That in the 21st century in the European Union human rights are being violated is a result of a lack of a discussion on values. For Poland, equality is a dream. Women, LGBT folks, migrants, Roma, etc. do not have their rights protected. Basic reproductive health access has been absent. Left wing, right wing, centrist governments have done little. We began talking about these violations of rule of law when the judiciary was attacked, not things like women's rights. No one noticed in the centre of Europe, women and other groups do not have

fundamental rights. The rule of law should mean the respect of human rights. We could have the best climate policy and great highways, but can that replace fundamental human rights? Can the EU exist without human rights? How many EU funds are devoted to upholding human rights? Are fundamental rights guarded by the EU? Perhaps we should become the leaders on this debate.

Daniel Freund; Everyone supports a strong rule of law conditionality and yet Orban has prevailed. He could see how step after step compromises were made. Daniel hopes an end is put to the appeasement policies, drawing a red line. It needs to be done, but will not be the silver bullet. It will also require political will. More funding to NGOs and journalists who are exposing fundamental rights.

Alma Zadić; The Rule of law is a democratic value around the world, but this fundamental commitment is fragile. Independence of the judiciary is indispensable, and must be vigorously defended. Without, it can endanger trust of society and its institutions. The covid19 crisis should never be used to lower our standards or violating legal guarantees. The EC's recent rule of law report is a mechanism to initiate discussions to reveal areas for improvements. Changes in one member state might not have the same impact in another. Council for justice and home affairs agreed earlier this week to engage with this topic regularly. Some member states rejected the report because they did not feel incorporated, and saw a threat of non-political action of judges.

Sandra Regol; In the fight on the rule of law, France is not spared. The recent Macron law is an attack on the fundamentals of France's foundational rights. A real rupture in society of a hate of Islam, from which the far right and Macron benefitted, we must be a positive force within this.

Irina Suhky; Have been expecting this kind of popular uprising for over 20 years. The dictator tried to simulate Soviet methods. It is prohibited to voice one's opinion in the streets. Sanctioned actions are only those in favour of the dictator. Political protest in Belarus have been 100% peaceful. Protestors were beaten and deported, tortured and imprisoned. Green activists were among the first detained. Many Green colleagues are in prison. They were arrested not in the streets, but at home - considered threats to the regime. Pro-democracy position. Diversity, feminism, democratisation. Not only fighting the regime, but working on a new regime. European Green solidarity is appreciated.

Sunday, 6 December 2020

Plenary

Membership reporting

9:00 – 9:30

Speaker: **Mar Garcia**, Secretary General EGP

Report of activities in 2020

Mar Garcia, Secretary General of the European Green Party (EGP) reports on the activities of the EGP 2020. Generally, she highlights that they had to be largely adjusted due to the Corona Pandemic and that the EGP office mainly teleworked since February 2020.

More specifically **Mar Garcia** reports on the activities the EGP organised and successfully implemented in 2020:

- Organisation of two fully online Councils
- Changed the character of Party Leader Meetings/High-level exchanges: In total five meetings were organised on the following topics: (i) Austrian Coalition Government, (ii) Corona Crisis, (iii) Recovery Strategy, (iv) EUCO on MFF and recovery package, (v) European Climate Law
- 16 Committee Meetings/phone calls of which 2 retreats were held. In comparison, normally 8-9 meetings are held throughout the year.
- The highest number ever of meetings with Member Parties: More than 45 online bi-lateral official meetings between Committee Members and Parties (on top of all the informal exchanges and continuous relations with staff)
- Increased video messages: More than 20 videos of support by Committee members
- 8 visits of member parties/ applicants for membership (mostly before the pandemic)
- More than 30 meetings and activities with Partners (GGEP, FYEG, Foundations, Global Greens...) and other European Political Parties

Mar Garcia went on by highlighting three major ongoing EGP projects:

(1) *The Green Recovery Tour*

Following the Green Recovery resolution adopted at the previous EGP Council in June, the EGP kicked off and implemented the project of the Green Recovery Tour. With this project, the EGP brings further attention to the 8 main points of a Green recovery. The EGP reached out to all member parties to engage into the project. In cooperation with member parties we organised (online) events on the issue of a Green recovery. Currently the EGP is publishing a series of videos specifically on these 8 main points.

(2) *Climate Campaign*

The EGP organised three topical webinars on: (i) Climate Neutrality, (ii) Carbon Capture and Storage and on (iii) the European Climate Law. Further a call went to all member parties to approach the EGP if there is interest in further topics.

We have organised and engaged in six meetings with civil society with the goal to coordinate our efforts.

Together with local actors, we have published two Op-eds on the European Climate Law in national newspapers.

Several actions are currently in the making, including for example COP26 cooperation with GPEW, GEF and the Global Greens.

(3) *TILT*

Following the election campaign 2019, TILT underwent adjustments and restructuring. It now works along two main lines: (a) long term campaigns & (b) rapid response campaigns.

TILT has started six new campaigns, while 4 campaigns continue to run since 2019. And has put forward eight rapid response campaigns.

Mar Garcia concludes this point reminding the Member Parties to reach out to the EGP if they have ideas for TILT campaigns.

Activity Plan 2021

Mar Garcia presents the Activity Plan for 2021. Based on the current assessment of the pandemic situation, the EGP will continue mainly with online activities for the first half of 2021 at least, and until the situation requires.

Mar Garcia continues with presenting a list of planned activities:

- (i) Policy Lab: The EGP will reach out to all member parties for participation and in order to gather ideas and have political discussions on the subjects. The EGP's ambition is to foster and further develop answers in areas where new green answers are necessary. These policy labs are planned for the following subjects: (i) Future of Work; (ii) Culture; (iii) Health; (iv) Trade (and the relocalisation of essential production sectors); (v) Climate neutrality (*continuation of the project and integrated in the Climate Campaign*).
- (ii) Ad-hoc Task Force on the Conference on the Future of Europe. This project is lead by Thomas Waitz, EGP co-chair and Mélanie Vogel, EGP Committee member. The EGP has reached out to all member parties to name their representative for this task force. The first meeting will take place before the Christmas break.
- (iii) Research Project: The EGP will commission research to acquire better instruments to understand the context of some member countries (especially in Southern and Eastern Europe) and possibly to support the work of the policy labs. The EGP hopes that it will be able to share the results in order to support green ideas and the European narrative of the member parties.
- (iv) Greens in Government: The EGP will work to further establish and consolidate stable contacts between Greens in Government and increase their cooperation. At the same time, the project aims at keeping the internal cohesion of the EGP by strengthening the exchanges between the parties who hold governing responsibilities and the rest of the Green family and find common grounds.
- (v) Fundraising Strategy: In order to match the grant which the EGP receives from the European Parliament (EP), the EGP needs to considerably increase its own resources. The EGP has put forward its first comprehensive fundraising strategy in 2020 and will start the implementation in 2021. The EGP also started a very first fundraising campaign for the culture sector in Poland with this Council.
- (vi) Local Councillors Network: The EGP plans to kick off the online platform for green local councillors in order to foster better exchange of best practices and networking. Further, the Local Councillors Network will function as an umbrella for exchange and networking on the issue of climate emergency declarations as well as post-Covid responses at the local level.
- (vii) Continuation of ongoing projects: (i) European Ideas Labs in cooperation with Greens/EFA in the EP. Due to the pandemic the organisation was not possible in 2020. The EGP will also look into the possibilities to continue the practice of regional

European Ideas Labs; (ii) Climate Campaign; (iii) Green Recovery Campaign; (iv) TILT; (v) Working Group (WG) on the Allocation of Votes. A first meeting of the WG took place in 2020. We will continue to work within the WG, but this should be addressed and dealt when a physical council meeting is possible.

Changes in Membership

Mar Garcia informs on the changes related to the member parties since the last Council in June:

- LMP (Hungary): Change of name to **LMP – Magyarország Zöld Pártja** (Hungarian Green Party)
- Alternattiva Demokratika – the Green Party (Malta): Merged with PD Party and changed its name to **ADPD**
- EQUO (Spain): Changed its name to: **Verdes EQUO**

Mar Garcia also reports on the fact that two new Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) have joined the EGP as individual members since last Council:

- (a) **Claude Gruffat joined the EP after Brexit**, he was elected as a member of ‘Ouverture’ on the EELV list, France
- (b) **Sylwia Spurek** (former S&D Polish MEP), Poland

Mar Garcia opens the floor for questions. **Katrin Fallmann** asks about the difference between the EIL and the Policy Lab.

Mar Garcia explains the EIL is mainly a space where the Greens engage in an exchange with the civil society. It is an event where room is given to NGOs and activists to organise debates and raise the issues to be discussed for Greens to respond. Regional EILs have been organised in Denmark, Ireland, Spain and Austria so far. The Policy Lab is a space where the Greens engage among each other, organising a discussion within the Green Universe. It is about topics, where the Green message might not be so clear, or issues which are traditionally not associated with the Greens, for example on the future of Work or the Cultural Sector following Covid.

No further questions were put forward and the session on membership reporting is closed.

Plenary

Presentation of finances and Finance Advisory Board statement

9:30 – 10:00

Speakers:

- **Ute Michel**, EGP Treasurer, Germany
- **Christian Kmiotek**, member of the Finance Advisory Board (FAB), déi gréng, Luxembourg

Ute Michel explains the need for the revised budget 2020 due to a total underspending of nearly 1,5 mln EUR. It is a direct result of the impact on EGP activities by the COVID pandemic. She continues by explaining in detail the proposed changes in the revised budget 2020 and the impact this has on the draft budget 2021.

With a carry-over that is more than 1/3 of the EP grant budget, the draft budget 2021 has the following format: core EP grant budget + carry-over budget = total budget 2021. Ute Michel then explains in detail the draft budget 2021: The total budget expenditure in 2021 will consist of an unprecedented 6.536.600 EUR (4.987.900 EUR linked to the EP grant plus 1.548.700 EUR in the carry-over budget). With an income of 4.987.953 EUR + 1.548.707 EUR = 6.536.660 EUR, a balanced budget is achieved based on the application for the maximum possible grant.

Christian Kmiotek gives a statement on behalf of FAB. He briefly reports on the FAB's engagement in the second half of 2020, outlining their support to increase the personnel budget line necessary to implement the draft activities plan 2021. FAB recommends voting in favour of the draft revised budget 2020 and the draft budget 2021.

Plenary

Presentations and Q&A with candidates for representatives of the member parties to the General Assembly of the Green European Foundation (GEF)

10:00 – 10:15

Moderator: **Mélanie Vogel**, EGP Committee member (France)

Mélanie Vogel explains that the EGP has four representatives in the GA of GEF. Two come from the EGP Committee, currently Evelyne Huytebroeck and Jean Lambert. The other two positions are held by representatives of the member parties. Their current mandate is ending, which is why the 32nd Council will elect two new representatives from Member Parties today.

Mélanie Vogel clarifies that it's a mandate of three years and that there are four candidates for two open positions:

- **Annaslav Yakovenko**, Nominated by Ecological Green Party of the Rep. of Moldova
- **Emma Nohrén**, Nominated by: miljöpartiet de gröna (Sweden)
- **Marie Pochon**, Nominated by: Europe Ecologie les Verts (EELV) (France)
- **Verónica Juzgado**, Nominated by: EQUO (Spain)

Every candidate has two minutes to present her- or himself in alphabetical order. After the presentations, the floor is open to questions to all four candidates at the same time.

Mélanie Vogel gives the floor to **Annaslav Yakovenko**

- Personal background: project manager in different areas in Moldova. For years involved in the Green Deal and a Green Transition
- Recent developments show that especially former Soviet countries want to go back to former economic and political models, thus Green concepts and ideas need to be spread much wider
- **Annaslav Yakovenko** wants to be a bridge between Western and Eastern Countries

- Societies need to be transformed based on Green principles: Climate and Energy, Economic Transformation, Social Europe and Gender Equality

Mélanie Vogel gives the floor to **Emma Nohrén**

- **Emma Nohrén** is from Sweden, she had been elected to the GEF assembly last year at the Tampere Council for a period of one year
- GEF fills the gap between politics, policies and civil society, bringing these two parts together is central and GEF plays a vital role
- **Emma Nohrén** is the Vice Mayor of Lysekil Municipality, she is a former Member of Parliament (MP) of the Swedish Parliament and a vice president of the newly established Green Group in the Committee of the Regions (CoR)

Mélanie Vogel gives the floor to **Marie Pochon**

- **Marie Pochon** is a green activist from EELV, committed to social, climate and environmental justice, she has been active as part of the Federation of Young Greens (FYEG) throughout the last five years
- Currently Marie Pochon works as campaign director for EELV for the regional elections in Lyon, France. She is also the Secretary General of an NGO working for climate justice called "Notre Affaire à Tous"
- With the transformation going on in Europe and the green wave there is an important role to play for the EGP as well as GEF

Mélanie Vogel gives the floor to **Verónica Juzgado**

- **Verónica Juzgado** is a member of Equo, the Green Party of Spain. She is a Sociologist with a master in European Union Studies.
- Her background is with FYEG and in 2014 she worked in Brussels for the Global Greens
- In line with the EGP work, she would like to contribute as part of the GEF assembly to strengthen the Green Parties in the South and in the East

Melanie Vogel opens up the floor to questions to be asked through the chat.

(1) First question to all candidates is which languages they speak.

Annaslav Yakovenko: Russian, Romanian and a bit of Ukrainian, English, and a little bit of French

Emma Nohrén: Swedish, English, a bit of German and Thai

Marie Pochon: French, English, a bit of Spanish and German and a little bit of Turkish

Verónica Juzgado: Spanish, English, French, a bit of Basque and little of Swedish and Cypriot

(2) Second question on the personal stands on LGBTI rights

Annaslav Yakovenko: We need a strong communication platform on LGBTI rights. Especially in Eastern European countries LGBTI rights are under threat, so we have to communicate better.

Emma Nohrén: LGBTI rights are human right and we have to fight for them. We have to make clear to everyone that we stand up for these rights and we will not stop fighting for them.

Marie Pochon: Agreement with Emma. LGBTI rights have to be defended at all times and everywhere. The European Green Family is a good place to support the fight for LGBTI rights, we have to use all the institutions and our mandates in different levels to fight for LGBTI rights.

Verónica Juzgado: LGBTI rights are human rights. Now is the time to even advance the rights, not to take a step back. She is proud of the work the Greens are doing in this regard and we have to continue the fight.

Mélanie Vogel thanks all participants and closes the session.

During the break the Council delegates and participants, who have secured their registration, move to the online voting platform.

Plenary

Online voting session

11:00 – 13:30

Moderators:

- **Mar Garcia**, EGP Secretary General (Spain)
- **Mélanie Vogel**, EGP Committee member (France)

Bert Beernink, from Beernink Productions, presents the online voting system to the delegates. Mar Garcia reminds the delegates that the voting session is recorded.

Mar Garcia informs the delegates that 126 votes have been initially allocated. The allocated vote from one member party has been withdrawn because of no response to any of our attempts of getting in touch and the unpaid membership fee 2020. Hence, the total number of allocated votes is 125. A 3/4 majority of the allocated votes is 94 votes; a 2/3 majority of the allocated votes is 84 votes.

In a trial vote, 121 out of 125 allocated votes are cast. The 50%+1 attendance quorum is thus reached.

Online meeting rules, valid only for the Online 32nd EGP Council, 2-6 December 2020

Mar Garcia informs the Council that no amendments were submitted and invites the Council to vote on the draft rules as tabled.

The Online Council meeting and voting rules, valid for the Online 32nd EGP Council, 2-6 December 2020, are adopted with 114 votes in favour, 4 votes against and 4 abstentions.

Elections of EGP representatives to GEF GA

Mélanie Vogel explains that the Council has to elect two representatives from the member parties and reminds the rules for elections: if a candidate wins more than 50% of the votes cast, s/he is elected in the first round. Should no candidate gain more than 50% of the first-round vote, a second round will be held between the two highest-scoring candidates. Mélanie Vogel invites the Council to vote.

In the first round, Annaslav Yakovenko gains 20 votes, Emma Nohrén gains 38 votes, Marie Pochon gains 51 votes and Veronica Juzgado gains 13 votes, there are no abstentions.

Mélanie Vogel invites the Council to vote between the Emma Nohrén and Marie Pochon. Marie Pochon gains 69 votes (57,5%) and Emma Nohrén gains 50 votes (41,7%), there is 1 abstention. Marie Pochon is elected as a representative to GEF GA in this round.

In the next round, Annaslav Yakovenko gains 21 votes, Emma Nohrén gains 54 votes and Veronica Juzgado gains 46 votes, there is 1 abstention.

Mélanie Vogel invites the Council to vote between the Emma Nohrén and Veronica Juzgado. Emma Nohrén gains 67 votes (54,5%) and Veronica Juzgado gains 56 votes (45,5%), there are no abstentions. Emma Nohrén is elected as a representative to GEF GA.

Minutes of the 31st Online Council, 10-13 June 2020

Mar Garcia informs the Council that there were no amendments received to the draft minutes and invites to go to the vote.

The minutes of the 31st Online Council, 10-13 June 2020 are adopted with 119 votes in favour, no votes against and 4 abstentions.

Exception to Article 6.3.1 of the EGP Statutes

Mar Garcia informs the Council that there were no amendments received and invites to go to the vote.

The exception to Article 6.3.1 of the EGP Statutes is adopted with 117 votes in favour, no votes against and 4 abstentions.

Change of legal seat of the European Green Party to rue du Taciturne 34 at 1000 Brussels

Mar Garcia informs the Council that there were no amendments received, reminds that a $\frac{3}{4}$ majority of the allocated votes is required and invites to go to the vote.

Change of the legal seat is adopted with 120 votes in favour, no votes against and no abstentions.

EGP membership list, Annex B of the EGP Statutes

Mar Garcia invites the Council to vote on the updated EGP Membership list, Annex B to the EGP Statutes.

The updated EGP membership list, Annex B of the EGP Statutes is adopted with 119 votes in favour, no votes against and 1 abstention.

Finance package: revised budget 2020, budget and membership fees 2021

Mar Garcia informs the Council that there were no amendments received, reminds that a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority of the votes cast is required and invites to go to the vote.

The finance package is adopted with 118 votes in favour, no votes against and 5 abstentions.

Activity Plan 2021

Mar Garcia informs the Council that there were no amendments received, reminds that a 2/3 majority of the votes cast is required and invites to go to the vote.

The activity plan 2021 is adopted with 121 votes in favour, no votes against and no abstentions.

Resolutions

Mélanie Vogel explains the Council that a compromise has been found to all amendments submitted to all draft resolutions during the compromise amendments sessions, therefore the first vote would be on all CAS amendments 'en bloc' (a simple majority of the votes cast is required) and the second vote would be on the resolution as amended (a 2/3 majority of the votes cast is required).

Resolution "Rule of law is at the core of the European Union – We need to protect it"

Mélanie Vogel invites the Council to vote on the compromise amendments en bloc. The compromise amendments to the draft resolution are adopted en bloc with 120 votes in favour, no votes against and 3 abstentions.

Mélanie Vogel invites the Council to vote on a resolution as amended. The resolution "Rule of law is at the core of the European Union – We need to protect it" as amended is adopted with 118 votes in favour, no votes against and 1 abstention.

Resolution "Let's give rivers a new life to save our own"

Mélanie Vogel invites the Council to vote on the compromise amendments en bloc. The compromise amendments to the draft resolution are adopted en bloc with 114 votes in favour, no votes against and no abstentions.

Mélanie Vogel invites the Council to vote on a resolution as amended. The resolution "Let's give rivers a new life to save our own" as amended is adopted with 123 votes in favour, no votes against and no abstentions.

Resolution "For a European Future without Coal - Stop the Turów coal mine!"

Mélanie Vogel invites the Council to vote on the compromise amendments en bloc. The compromise amendments to the draft resolution are adopted en bloc with 121 votes in favour, no votes against and no abstentions.

Mélanie Vogel invites the Council to vote on a resolution as amended. The resolution "For a European Future without Coal - Stop the Turów coal mine!" as amended is adopted with 122 votes in favour, no votes against and no abstentions.

Resolution "Trans Rights Here! Trans Rights Now!"

Mélanie Vogel invites the Council to vote on the compromise amendments en bloc. The compromise amendments to the draft resolution are adopted en bloc with 101 votes in favour, 1 vote against and 16 abstentions.

Melanie Vogel invites the Council to vote on a resolution as amended. The resolution “Trans Rights Here! Trans Rights Now!” as amended is adopted with 101 votes in favour, 1 vote against and 16 abstentions.

Resolution “The Right to Protest”

Melanie Vogel invites the Council to vote on the compromise amendments en bloc. The compromise amendments to the draft resolution are adopted en bloc with 121 votes in favour, no votes against and 1 abstention.

Melanie Vogel invites the Council to vote on a resolution as amended. The resolution “The right to protest” as amended is adopted with 123 votes in favour, no votes against and no abstentions.

Resolution “Greening the Eastern Partnership”

Melanie Vogel invites the Council to vote on the compromise amendments en bloc. The compromise amendments to the draft resolution are adopted en bloc with 117 votes in favour, no votes against and 1 abstention.

Melanie Vogel invites the Council to vote on a resolution as amended. The resolution “Greening the Eastern Partnership” as amended is adopted with 121 votes in favour, no votes against and 1 abstention.

Resolution “Recovering from Covid-19, building a sustainable tourism sector across Europe”

Melanie Vogel invites the Council to vote on the compromise amendments en bloc. The compromise amendments to the draft resolution are adopted en bloc with 121 votes in favour, no votes against and 1 abstention.

Melanie Vogel invites the Council to vote on a resolution as amended. The resolution “Recovering from Covid-19, building a sustainable tourism sector across Europe” as amended is adopted with 121 votes in favour, no votes against and 1 abstention.

Resolution “For an EU that acts in support of peace and the right to self-determination in Western Sahara”

Melanie Vogel invites the Council to vote on the compromise amendments en bloc. The compromise amendments to the draft resolution are adopted en bloc with 121 votes in favour, no votes against and 1 abstention.

Melanie Vogel invites the Council to vote on a resolution as amended. The resolution “For an EU that acts in support of peace and the right to self-determination in Western Sahara” as amended is adopted with 119 votes in favour, no votes against and 2 abstentions.

Closing remarks

13:30 – 14:00

Speaker: **Mar Garcia**, EGP Secretary General (Spain)



32nd Council, European Green Party
2-6 December 2020, Warsaw-Online

Mar Garcia thanks everyone for participating and especially to those who worked to prepare the Council, the EGP team and the Polish Greens, Partia Zieloni. Having Warsaw as a symbolic location of the Council was of a great political value for the European Greens, and she thanks Partia Zieloni for their work and collaboration in the preparations despite all the challenges.

Mar Garcia announces the **next Council will take place in Brussels 28 – 30 May 2021**, probably also online, depending on what circumstances of the pandemic allow.

Mar Garcia, Secretary General EGP
Brussels, 11 January 2021