

## **EGP – ACTIVITY PLAN 2016 as adopted by the Lyon Council**

### **I INTRODUCTION**

---

EGP work in 2016 should focus on two tasks: first of all making Green answers to the challenges of today more visible and audible, while at the same time preparing the 2019 European Parliament elections structurally and politically.

Developing Green policies along with organisational strength and the capacity building of our member parties should go hand in hand. It is therefore essential that the EGP, its member parties and our partners make an effort of analysing our political proposals in order to respond properly to an increasingly complicated reality.

EGP urgently needs to find common channels for discussion and reflection that allow us to define common responses, prioritising on clarity and forcefulness. The problems we face are structural, and they affect the whole of Europe, the European Union and the Eurozone: the deepening of the European project, the fight against climate change, the substitution of the austerity policies, serious security issues, the increased numbers of refugees, external trade, the implementation of the post-2015 agreements for the eradication of poverty are, amongst many others, very important challenges for Greens.

The EGP Committee is neither able nor aiming to do this alone; our partners and member parties cannot do it on their own either. In order to achieve our goals, we must define an open framework that allows us to perform a thorough analysis and propose Green arguments to the entire Green family, and then transform these agreements into political action.

The Committee will look at opportunities for public discussions on important topics, perhaps similar to the event with Joschka Fischer that we organised in December 2014.

In 2017, we will get together in Liverpool for the 5<sup>th</sup> EGP Congress, jointly with the Global Greens Congress. It will be an important congress, taking place two years before the next European elections. We will make every effort to use that event to boost the European Green project.

### **2 POLITICAL PRIORITIES 2016**

---

The 2014 Common Green Manifesto stands as our common cohesive political base for 2016 and the upcoming years.

Based on the Manifesto and the evaluation of the 2014 election results, made by member parties and Committee alike, the 2016 political priorities will be developed in a long-term strategy in order to get the Green parties ready for 2019.

## **Towards 2019**

Our plan towards 2019 combines the development of our political agenda, strengthening of our parties, supporting our politicians and spreading our message.

The strategy will hold an analysis of the election results, an assessment of our opportunities and chances, and a work programme to realise success in the lead-up to the next elections.

Therefore, we will intensify our membership relations, both in a multilateral way by strengthening the exchange between member parties and the promotion of transnational activities, and bilaterally by initiating projects on key topics.

Committee members will strengthen direct exchange with the concerned member parties, and keep an open eye for political movements.

## **Divestment**

As a follow-up to the Climate Campaign carried out in 2015 and on the back of the successful conference we organised in Paris on 1 September 2015, the Committee will allocate funds to continue campaigning for the Divestment on Fossil Fuels, trying to strengthen the Divestment movement in the European landscape. We will look into the possibility of organising an event, which will focus on celebrating Global Divestment Day in 2016.

## **A people-oriented economy**

The Committee will propose to organise a conference on economic policy, hopefully to be co-hosted by one or two member parties.

The conference should focus on our common efforts to frame environmental/economic transformation in a way that looks how it affects people. The aim is to develop the language and the concept of the Green New Deal in a way that enables us to define a clearer, people-oriented green economy.

## **Green Cities**

As a follow-up to the Green Cities Conference held in Helsinki in September 2015, an editorial group will develop a Green Cities Manifesto based on the strength of the best practice exchange, thereby helping to foster inspiration and motivation for the Green Local Councillors that work around Europe.

We propose during 2016 to do two regional 'Green Cities' workshops dealing with the issues around refugees, immigration and integration based on practical experiences in the regions concerned.

The Committee will also propose that the municipal level be more visible at Council meetings. We will use formats to raise the profile of Local Councillors, for example invite a Green City to make a presentation.

We will of course liaise with the Local Councillors Network and the Green members of the Committee of the Regions in order in order to implement these ideas.

## Gender

Gender equality is deeply rooted in Green politics. In 2016, we are going to invest in strengthening the Gender Network, working on the diversification of communication tools, widening membership and strengthening the political capacity of the Network to support member parties, but also to raise its capacity to play a role in the international gender politics scene. We will coordinate our work with the Global Greens Women's Network.

We will continue the debate on maternity/paternity leave, since in 2015, the political process did not lead to a satisfying conclusion and we must keep the topic alive on a European scale, but also mobilise stakeholders to ensure that it remains on the political agenda. More importantly, we want to ensure that the political actors do not fail again in bringing in a responsible and inclusive European directive.

Gender and Climate is a further issue that we will tackle; climate change discussions and policies must not neglect its gender aspect.

## The Future of Europe

The current context, with a dangerous combination of perceived EU incapability to answer the challenges of economic crises and increased numbers of refugees, as well as the debate on Grexit and Brexit, gives us the responsibility of resuming our fight on the issue of our vision for Europe, to readapt our narrative and proposals and to agree on the needed initiatives to bring them forward. There is a need again to take up European issues in a new way, which aims at reaching three goals:

1. Effectively counter the threats of nationalism, populism and new borders
2. Appeal to the EU “dream” beyond technocratic recipes and austerity
3. Make Europe capable of decision-making in a democratic and cohesive way as an instrument to implement a Green New Deal.
4. Connecting more intensely with the neighbouring regions that suffer from lack of security, employment and economic sustainability as well as environmental threats leading to violent conflicts, forced migration and increased refugee flows.

The question is: how can Europe become an inspirational and emotional project for Greens and how could it contribute to answering to the nationalist and populist tendencies we see growing on the political scene? Our fight for the European project is not about defending the EU's status quo, it's about change.

In this context, the Committee will propose to organise a public event in Brussels, in cooperation with our Green partners and other interested organisations, to foster the debate and awareness of the risks that the common EU project is demonstrating, in particular on point 2.

## **Preparation of Joint Congress of EGP and Global Greens**

In spring 2017, the EGP and the Global Greens will be holding their respective 5<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Congresses in Liverpool, UK. As the EGP will be hosting the Global Greens Congress, it was decided to combine both Congresses.

An organisation team will work on the programme and logistics for the Joint Congress during 2016. Funds will be allocated for this purpose.

## **3 WORKING GROUPS AND NETWORKS**

---

The Committee has engaged in a discussion with the EGP Working Groups and Networks to develop mid-term strategies for further developing them. In 2016, we will focus on the following.

### **Working Groups**

- WG Migration
- WG Foreign and Security Policy
- WG Trade
- WG Future of Europe

### **Networks**

- Balkan Green Network
- Gender Network
- Local Councillors Network
- Individual Supporters Network (ISN)
- European Network of Green Seniors (ENGS)
- LGBTQ Network

## **4 PARTNERS**

---

### **Green Group in the European Parliament**

The Committee will continue building a strong working relationship with the Green Group in the EP.

In the upcoming year, one of the fields of cooperation lies on the Economic Governance/Eurozone on the Better Regulation initiatives as well as on Foreign Policy. The proposal for revising the European Electoral Law will also be an issue for cooperation.

## **GEF – Green European Foundation**

With part of the GEF General Assembly composed of representatives of the member parties, we will work on continuing to strengthen the ties between the member parties and the GEF. The Committee particularly welcomes the effort to build transnational cooperation among national foundations resulting in many transnational activities.

The Committee makes use of the valuable research capacity of the GEF when it comes to analysis of Green parties and movements.

## **Global Greens**

Following the recommendation of the Committee, the Spring Council in Zagreb in May 2015 adopted the plan for the organisation of the next Global Greens Congress to be held together with the EGP Congress in Spring 2017 in Liverpool, UK. The focus of the cooperation in 2016 will be on organising the political programme and the logistics.

## **FYEG – Federation of Young European Greens**

We continue to work in cooperation with our youth partner. We appreciate the intense level of activities they manage to organise with relatively small resources.

The Committee intends to continue efforts for youth participation and keep this as a high political priority for the next year.

## **5 MEMBERSHIP**

---

### **Relations with our Members; we stay in touch!**

The Committee will allocate more time to actively pursue relations with the member parties and will continue to visit member parties in their national territories. These visits help foster a better understanding of each party and their political situation, and helps to form a better understanding of the state of play of Green parties in general.

The Committee intends to continue organising the Green Leaders meetings.

### **Exchange**

The Committee would like to continue with a refreshed exchange project for interns and make it possible for people to learn and gain experiences in other member parties.

The exchange program is meant to facilitate three-month internships that allow some members from Green parties to learn from some of our more established parties.

## **Transnational activities**

In order to continue building upon successful experiences in the campaign, the Committee has reserved funding in its budget to be able to contribute to cross border and transnational activities, particularly in reinforcing efforts for the internship exchange program.

## **Applications**

In some countries, Green parties have a strong and secured position while in other countries, Green parties are subject to new challenges and developments. Occasionally, our partners are surpassed by younger and electorally more attractive parties. The Green brand needs to be strengthened further, and the fact that we keep receiving membership applications shows that we are a popular brand to belong to.

During this year, 2015, the Committee has worked on some of the requests that are pending for membership and will continue to do so in 2016.

## **6 ORGANISATION**

---

### **Grant Application and Revision of the EGP's Statutes**

The revision of the EP regulation of the financing of European political parties and foundations was adopted at the end of 2015. As a consequence, the EGP Statutes, adopted at the Paris Council in November 2011, will have to be revised. The required changes will be prepared and presented for a vote at the Councils in 2016.

### **EGP Office**

Thanks to the EP Grant to the EGP, the office can remain staffed as proposed and adopted by the Madrid Council, May 2013. Since two thirds of the employees have newly joined the EGP office in 2014/2015, emphasis will be put on establishing work routines, quality management procedures and deepened continuous training.

## 7 COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND COUNCILS

---

The Committee proposes to hold the Spring Council on 20-22 May 2016 and the Autumn Council on 18-20 November 2016. In between the Councils, 6 Committee meetings are organised to manage the party, execute the priorities and prepare the Councils.

The 2016 Committee meetings are scheduled for (to be confirmed):

- 29-30 January
- 11-12 March
- 15-16 April
- 20-22 May – SPRING COUNCIL
- 24-26 June (Retreat)
- 9-10 September
- 14-16 October
- 18-20 November – AUTUMN COUNCIL

The agenda and the minutes of the Committee meetings are posted on the internal delegates platform.