



Activities Report 2012

Dear Delegates,

2012 has been a transitional year for the European Green Party. Since 2009, we have focused on strengthening the organisation, functioning and development of the European Green Party. In 2012 our focus shifted from the party's internal organisation, towards preparations for the campaign in 2014. We have almost finalised the development of European Green policies, further developed both our communications infrastructure and outreach, and prepared our organisation for the upcoming campaign. The Autumn Council elected a new Committee that will lead the EGP towards the 2014 campaign.

This campaign will unfold in a political climate that has shown the crisis deepening. The financial stability of the Euro is at stake and it will require both courage and innovative proposals to guarantee financial, economic and social cohesion within Europe. Europe is increasingly dominated by the discourse between austerity and solidarity. The lack of democratic control over major financial decisions has shocked many of us.

Green parties reflect the current political situation. In the areas where we have shown to be consistent in our message for a sustainable society based on citizen participation, we have gained ground. In the areas where our message is less strong, voters look for alternatives. In some countries voters have given a clear message to political parties and institutions. They want a different kind of politics: one that is more democratic, more transparent and that is against corruption. We have clear responses to these concerns, and are prepared to face the ballot.

Nationalistic and populist parties and political rhetoric are gaining ground in the current political environment. This means that we have to express ourselves even more clearly than before, and make it clear that we offer a different perspective for the future. We're offering a green transition for our societies, and a sustainable and fair Europe that is based on a solid and democratic structure. We are the only family that offers this perspective, and progressive and sustainable solutions.

Horizon 2014

Throughout 2012, we continued our project to strengthen the parties where we have a clear possibility of making electoral gains in 2014. After a mid-term evaluation in the beginning of the year together with our European partners, we continued to offer support for these partners' activities.

Membership

We began the process of the membership review as a consequence of the changes to our Statutes. We drafted a first proposal, which was adopted at the Autumn Council in Athens. The process of collecting information and making an assessment of the 'old' observer parties took a lot more time than we envisaged. The Committee invited Erzsébet Schmuck from Ökopolisz Hungary, Susanne Rieger from ICV and Michael Scharfschwerdt from Bündnis 90/Die Grünen to participate in this process, and we are very thankful for their effort and commitment. For the first time, the EGP has the basic information it needs from its member parties. We will be able to build upon this in the future and make the information available for our members.



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We received applications from Lithuanian Greens, Israeli Greens, Serbian Greens and Spanish Green party EQUO. We have ended our relationship with the Spanish party Los Verdes and welcome the participation of party elements of Los Verdes with EQUO.

On top of these developments, we have kept up relations with our existing member parties and made visits to the party boards and conferences of Green parties in Germany, Spain, Hungary, Greece, France, the UK, the Netherlands, Finland and Austria. Fact-finding missions were carried out as part of the membership review in Romania, Bulgaria, Croatia and Azerbaijan.

Council

We organised Spring Council in Denmark to get closer acquainted with our partner SF. SF is a party that participates in government, and the Council offered us a chance to meet with some of their ministers and get a better understanding of what government participation means for a party. The Autumn Council was hosted by the Greek Greens, who experienced a very difficult election year. They faced two national elections in a row, and had great difficulty making an impact. They were squeezed out by the populist vote. The incredibly tough austerity measures have created a difficult position for our Green partner in Greece. By organising the meeting in Athens, we gave our Council participants the opportunity to have a closer look and gain a better understanding of what is happening in Greece, and gave the Greek Greens the opportunity to demonstrate their politics. We had excellent support in organising the Council by the Greek Greens!

Global Greens Congress in Dakar

One of the major events we assisted in organising in 2012 was the 3rd Global Greens Congress in Dakar. This inspiring meeting, hosted by the Senegalese Greens, served to further strengthen the Global Greens organisation. It also enabled the setting up of several exchange networks, like the MP network and the Gender network. Organised directly after the Senegalese presidential elections, it was very rewarding to meet with Greens from over 70 Green parties from across the world as the country marked the peaceful transition of the presidency. The European Green Party's offer to host the next Global Greens Congress in Europe was accepted. Support for a full time secretary for the organisation further served to strengthen this important and relevant hub for Greens and Green Parties at a Global level. We are proud to host the Global Greens secretariat in the EGP premises for the next 5 years.

Green Political Agenda

The third chapter of the social dimension of the Green New Deal was developed in 2012 under the coordination of Philippe Lamberts, and will be presented for a vote at the Spring Council 2013. We began to develop our view on the digital society, coordinated by Jan Philipp Albrecht, and managed to vote on the Agricultural paper, coordinated by Bas Eickhout, at the Council in Copenhagen. We have continuously developed answers to the situation in the European Union, and have refined our proposals for better financial and democratic management in Europe. We feel that completing the work on our common approach to several of these topics gives us the best possible starting point for preparing the common Green manifesto.



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Working groups and networks

2012 was the first year in which we asked the working groups and networks to present a work plan and budget to the Committee, ahead of the Committee meeting that prepared the budget for 2013. Not all working groups and networks were able to present these in time or in full. However, the process of improving the structure and coordination of the working groups and networks has started and will continue. The Committee has planned several discussions with some of the networks to see what activities they need further support with, and to see how the networks and working groups can work more effectively.

The Council has adopted a 5-year plan for the local councillors network. This 5-year plan has set an outline for the next step of development of this network that up to now has been at a grassroots level. The local councillors often form the base and the backbone of our Green member parties and we want to strengthen the exchange of knowledge within this valuable network.

Conciliation Panel

The Autumn Council also saw the election of the Conciliation panel of the European Green Party. This was another consequence of the new Statutes and Rule Book, and is a body focused on conflict management.

Revision of the regulation of political parties and the foundations

This regulation has a built-in revision clause that obliges a review of the current regulation as it stands. The main proposed change is to establish a European legal Status for the European political parties and foundations. This will give the parties and the foundation a more prominent status on an inter-institutional European level. However, the parties and foundations will also keep their national status. In our case this means a double status – the European status and the Belgian status as an international non-profit organisation. Naturally as Greens we are anxious to see a single European Status. However we know that this process will take longer to develop. We expect the proposed change to happen before Summer 2013. If the new regulation is fully adopted the transition period will take a year or more, seeing that all parties and foundations will need to change their statutes. In practice, this will mean that it will be implemented after the European elections.

Green Lux

Some energy and time was dedicated to seeing if we could move to a much more visible location in the European Quarter. In the end, the Committee decided not to move and instead give priority to the campaign. We were able to rent extra premises in Rue Wiertz that will serve our needs for the upcoming campaign.

FYEG

We remain strongly committed to the work of FYEG. In Athens we decided to give extra emphasis to youth work, and the focus of our Spring Council 2013 is youth empowerment. We will continue to speak strongly about it as we approach the campaign. FYEG has moved to another part of the premises on Rue Wiertz, to provide them with more space in view of their campaign preparations. At the Spring



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Council in Copenhagen we concluded our agreement with FYEG, in the spirit of the excellent cooperation between the EGP and FYEG over the last few years.

A new Committee

16 candidates presented themselves as candidates for the Committee after we sent out a call for candidates before Summer 2012. The elections, carried out by electronic voting for the first time, resulted in the election of 5 new Committee members and the re-election of 4 Committee members: a good mix of experience and new commitment and energy, for the management of the European Green Party. The newly-elected Committee immediately promised to address one of the outcomes of the elections, that is the lack of representation of parties from Eastern Europe on the Committee.

The elected Committee went for a retreat in December where they divided tasks and responsibilities and held their first in depth discussion on the preparations and organisation of the 2014 election campaign. The Committee is fully motivated to waging a common European election campaign in the 28 EU member States and to strengthening relationships with and between the Green Parties.

In the Copenhagen Council meeting, the outgoing Committee presented an overview of the Council's work over three years. You can find the document [HERE](#).

People

Again and again, we experience the commitment and motivation of people towards the European Green family. We would like to specifically mention all the volunteers who help us in organising events, the European partners, and our politicians who help us with their advice and expertise to further develop the Green family at large. We are impressed by the energy and voluntary contributions of the people who help us with specific projects or who otherwise fulfil a function within the EGP.

A very big thank you to our staff, who as ever work with complete dedication, and support us in organising our work. Although the EGP Office has grown considerably during the last years, our ambition means our staff's workload is challenging. After several years of intensify our communications capacity, the Committee has decided to strengthen the work of the Secretariat. The Office Manager has been appointed and the two Co-Chairs will work with a personal assistant each to support them in their work. The campaign staff will further strengthen the team and will begin their work in 2013.

Prepared for 2014

This was the title of the activities plan the Committee drafted for 2013. And we are. Our preparations for the Common Manifesto, the campaign, our vision for Europe, are all up for deciding on at the Spring Council. Our whole office and staff are set to go Green and reclaim the future! We are looking forward positively to the upcoming campaign, because we believe we have the right answers and credible proposals for the current situation. We believe we have both the programme and the people to convince Europe's voters to vote Green!