Interview questions for Catalunya en Comú – EGP candidate member applicant

1. The European Green Party is a very dynamic political family that depends a lot on cooperation between its members. How can the European Greens family support your work? How do you plan on contributing to and cooperating with EGP Member Parties?

We are so happy to formally join the European Green family. Catalunya En Comú is a political confluence that was created with the vocation of becoming a large party in Catalonia during the 21st century, building from the political work of ICV/Esquerra Verda, which is already a member of the European Green Party and has been the reference for green policies in Catalonia in the last years. So, our links with the European Green family have been already strong in the past and with Catalunya En Comú we aim at strengthening those even more. Not only by bringing the only Green MEP from Southern Europe, but also by bringing our municipalist political experience, our way of doing politics (from the proximity, feminist, progressive and green) and our policies, such as the ones we are developing from the Municipality of Barcelona.

Joining the European Green Party will allow us:

- To have allies at global and European level to share a joint vision of the pan-European challenges and to be able to transform Europe into a greener, social and feminist Europe and collaborate more with the municipalist space.
- Share knowledge and experiences with member parties in the articulation of proposals and policies.
- Connect with ecological transition projects for Catalonia which can have a European dimension.

We understand that the privileged space for this cooperation is through the EGP, and its working groups, which can surely address the complexity of the challenges we are working on, such as the future of Europe, climate neutrality,..... Of course through the meeting spaces and also between leaders of the different parties and in the space of the councils. And of course through the work of the Greens/EFA parliamentary group with all MEPs. We are also willing to promote more bilateral contacts with our concrete activists in order to share experiences and projects of shared interest.
2. Climate action is a key challenge at every level of policy-making. What are your plans to put Catalonia on the path to climate neutrality?

Both from the government, in Spain, and in the opposition, in Catalonia, and especially from our municipalities, we understand that the ecological transition and the reconversion of the industrial model in Catalonia is one of our priority objectives and we want to push in this direction.

At the level of Catalonia, we want to approve the Catalan climate law and collaborate in the implementation and improvement of the Spanish climate law. We want to take advantage of the Next Generation funds to advance climate neutrality and electrification and we want Catalonia to push GREEN hydrogen in its development.

Also, with small actions in our cities, we can make big steps to fight climate change. With the mayor's office of the Barcelona City Council and in other Catalan municipalities, we have been able to make great strides towards the recovery of the streets of the city for the residents or the creation of the energy trading company “Barcelona Energia”.

3. As European Greens, we are proudly pro-European, but for a Europe of change through deep reform, not of status quo. What is your own vision for the future of Europe? How do you plan to contribute to this vision in Catalonia?

We are a truly pro-European force, but we are also critical of the current status quo Europe.

From Catalunya en Comú, we defend a more integrated Europe, which advances in a federal logic, with a much more vibrant participation of citizens (and of cities and regions), overcoming intergovernmental logics, for example, overcoming the vetoes of the states in taxation or foreign policy and advancing in more communitarian logics. It is clear to us that the Europe we want must be based on 4 pillars:

- **Democratic radicalism**, from a feminist and federalist vision, which also includes cities and citizens,
- **a real European social pillar** aligned with the objectives of the 2030 Agenda,
- **an ecological agenda** with the ambition required nowadays,
- **multilateralism**, a Europe that contributes to political and democratic globalisation.

To achieve this Europe, deep changes are needed where citizens can be heard and informed. To achieve this, we have done and we are doing so, by linking domestic debates to the European perspective, bringing European debates closer to the citizens and bringing citizens’ debates to Europe, such as the fight for decent housing. To do this, we have organised two debate formats open to citizens: “Del Municipi a Europa” (From the neighbourhood to Europe) and “Munizipalise Europe”. Moreover, we have a good opportunity for Catalan citizens to get involved in defining the future of Europe if the Conference on the Future of Europe becomes an instrument where all voices are heard.
4. The Post COVID-19 recovery will be at the top of the agenda for the months and years to come. What are your plans to ensure a recovery in Catalonia that leaves no one behind and leads to a new model of society?

We are working, both in Catalonia, from the opposition, and in Spain, supporting the government in promoting a social shield that protects the most vulnerable, and that can expand our - still small - welfare state. We are strongly proposing the role of the care economy and, as we said, the whole process of ecological transition and the commitment to the Green New Deal must outline a new model, both in terms of welfare and in terms of work. This new model is under construction and we want to take advantage of the fact that the neoliberal consensus is beginning to fail.

5. Civil rights and equal rights in Europe are being attacked (in particular LGBTQI, abortion, gender equality, migrants and refugees rights). What are your plans to foster an equal society free of discrimination in Catalonia?

We defend a feminist, egalitarian and discrimination-free Europe, we are very proud - and this is recognised everywhere - to be one of the most active and pioneers in Catalonia in the defence and extension of civil rights and the fight for equality. Feminism is part of our soul and we strongly advocate for a welcoming Europe for refugees.

In Barcelona, we have created the first LGTBI centre in Spain, which offers comprehensive support to this collective. Here, there is still a lot of work to be done on LGTBI protections and guarantees, on gender equality and social racism, but we are aware that in Catalonia and Spain these issues and struggles are being rapidly taken up in recent years and are much more advanced than in other corners of Europe, and although there is obviously a lot of work to be done, we also roll up our sleeves especially to prevent attacks on fundamental freedoms from happening in any city or country in the EU and share our experience within the EGP.