

European Green Party co-chair position candidacy:

Building an inclusive, dynamic and ambitious federation

The European Green Party (EGP) is renewing its team at a critical time for the European project but also at a turning point in its history. At 15, it is still a young and energetic force but it has taken decisive steps towards becoming a more mature and confident political actor. We have a professional team that has led a modern, incisive and participatory campaign. We are still the most committed advocate for a truly transnational and cross-border project and must continue to move in this direction. EGP's role is to support both its EU and non-EU member parties across a range of activities. It has also been an extraordinary forum for ideas (the Ideas Lab, local councillor events, resolutions, working groups, etc.) as well as a platform to boost communication activities (the TILT platform, social media and press work). Building on this foundation by increasing the cohesion and engagement of our member parties must be our priority moving forward.

A decisive role for the Greens in Europe

Today, Europe is facing some of the greatest challenges in its history, including a climate and social emergency, Brexit, a refugee reception crisis and more. Its credibility and reputation have been shaken to the core, leading to the emergence of national, populist forces challenging the basis of our values. The horse trading over Europe's top jobs following the European elections in May have also undermined confidence in the European project. However, many citizens in several Member States have put their trust in the Greens as a real European alternative, offering a significantly more ambitious proposal based on sustainability. It is now our collective duty to defend this progressive, more forward-looking vision for Europe.

It is essential that we build on this unprecedented momentum. The Greens/EFA Group in the European Parliament has never been stronger since its inception in 1989.

The impact of global warming is now virtually undisputed in the public sphere resulting in increased support for a Green and social agenda to create more sustainable jobs, protect biodiversity, whilst also focusing on social justice, gender equality and more competent governance through a just ecological transition. The Green Wave has spread across most parts of Europe and it is our task to help it grow in strength and occupy even more political territory.

Engaging actively as a member of the EGP Committee since 2015:

Since being elected to the Committee in November 2015, I have been responsible for locally elected representatives, the Global Greens, climate change, sustainable cities and the rights of people with disabilities. I have also acted as a liaison with Green representatives from various countries, including in the Balkans. Other activities have included:

- relaunching the positive dynamic around cities and locally elected officials with events in Munich, Rome and Oslo
- preparing and leading several plenary sessions and working groups during EGP Councils
- organising our Congress and the Global Greens Congress in Liverpool
- taking on numerous missions in several member parties
- participating actively in the European campaign within the TILT group and preparing the campaign rally in Brussels
- participating in twice monthly Skype meetings with the Global Greens Coordination Committee
- acting as a liaison with the Belgian Green national parties ECOLO and GROEN
- promoting the programme and vision of Green parties across Europe in various different contexts on a daily basis.

I have called on the Green party I represent, Ecolo, to re-submit my candidacy to the Committee for the position of co-chair of the European Green Party

My priorities for the future will consist in:

1. Liaising closely with the Greens/EFA group in the European Parliament as a means to unite our forces. The political group and the party each have their own specific agendas, but our full potential can only be reached if we work well together. The expertise and dynamism at the group are an asset to all members of the federation and are key to winning political battles in the future.
2. Giving special priority to **European countries where we are less politically present on the ground, such as the in the east and south of Europe.** We need to listen to their needs, share best practices and strategies as well as develop innovative ideas. The profile of these parties

can be boosted by EGP events held within a local context. They can also benefit from an additional focus on capacity building and communications support.

3. **Strengthening the Ideas Lab concept** with the Greens/EFA group by repurposing and diversifying some of the key elements. This innovative and inspiring forum has already become a trademark which will continue to foster a positive dynamic within the Green family.
4. Building stronger ties at local and regional level to strengthen our influence in the European sphere. We already hold government positions in several major European cities and must continue to promote events geared towards locally elected officials to expand our network. The strength of Green local representation has proven to be a major asset to underscore our credibility and develop deeper roots within communities. A key focus must include communicating about our local successes more effectively.
5. Improving our communication channels between all members of the European Green family, including the Green European Foundation, the Green European Journal, the Federation of Young European Greens, the Global Greens, the Global Young Greens, as well as strengthening our own teams.
6. Ensuring more effective **coordination between member party representatives and their international counterparts. We need to raise the profile of the European Green Party** and make sure it is responsive to national and regional contexts.
7. Guaranteeing that we actively engage with **civil society**, activists, NGOs, trade unions and business. These ties are vital as a means to expand our network and build new bridges.

A proven track record as a passionate Green campaigner, a committed team leader and effective parliamentarian and government negotiator

My experience has involved:

- Fulfilling parliamentary and leadership duties since the 1980s, including collaborating with colleagues on our programme and values and engaging in cross-party consultations .

- Acting as a government minister for a decade and as a group leader. As part of this role, I have developed strong listening skills and a capacity to show empathy. It also helped me to refine my skills in promoting and generating interest and enthusiasm among the public around projects.
- Promoting gender-equality as a woman working in the political sphere. I have a proven track record and concrete achievements working on both long and short-term projects.
- Operating for many years within Europe's capital and developing close ties with European colleagues.
- Working within diverse cultural contexts and developing a high degree of sensitivity and respect towards the needs and concerns of different communities both within and outside the European Union.

This is my last mandate at a local level and I'm now seeking to shift my focus. My aim is to dedicate more time **and energy towards further developing the European Green Party. It is for this reason that I present my candidacy as the co-chair of the European Green Party. If I am not elected as the co-chair, I reiterate my intention to apply to continue my mandate as a Committee member.**

Thank you for your support,

Evelyne HUYTEBROECK
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