



27th Council, European Green Party
24-26 November 2017, Karlstad, Sweden

Venue

Karlstad Congress Culture Centre,
Tage Erlandergatan 8 A-F, 652 20 Karlstad, Sweden

Friday, 24 November 2017

Council Opening Session

15.30 - 16.00

Speakers:

- **Monica Frassoni**, EGP co-chair, Italy
- **Anders Knape**, Chair of Karlstad City Parliament, Sweden
- **Gustav Fridolin**, Minister for Education, co-spokesperson of Miljöpartiet de gröna, Sweden

Monica Frassoni welcomes everyone to the 27th EGP council in Karlstad, Sweden. She starts her intervention by highlighting the difficult times we are living in, in particular the dangers of divided societies. Monica underlines that this is a challenge that has always concerned the Greens, having a direct impact on policies for climate change and social inequality.

She introduces the four themes that will be at the centre of this Council: globalisation, which, at the same time, constitutes both a challenge and an opportunity, in particular in terms of cooperation with less-developed areas of the world; the future of the Greens in an ever-changing Europe, with special attention on culture- and alliance-building in view of the campaign for the European elections in 2019; and local government and local development, a field in which Greens have been successful in bringing about change. She also reminds the delegates that local successes have often been instrumental in successes at the national and European level.

She emphasises that the Swedish Greens have six ministers with varied portfolios, sending a large delegation to the Council. Their success story should be an example for other Green parties.

In conclusion, Monica Frassoni argues that Greens have become a credible political force and not only for environmental issues, in particular because they are aware that the environment is linked to our quality of life in general, which is what citizens are mainly concerned about. The challenge for the Greens is to be closer to the citizens who are feeling increasingly insecure and unsafe.

Anders Knape welcomes the delegates to Karlstad. He briefly describes the history of the city, including the founding of the university in 1977, one of the direct causes behind the Green party's appearance in the city's political scene in 1982. He acknowledges the role of the Greens in making Karlstad one of Sweden's most environmental cities, and goes on to list some of their political battles: their successful struggle to reduce emissions, their public

transport which is considered Sweden's best by the users, and investment in infrastructure for cyclists and pedestrians.

Gustav Fridolin welcomes the audience, stating that Sweden is the leading country in terms of respecting the objectives set by the Paris Agreement, and that it has the ambition to become the first carbon-neutral welfare state in the world.

He goes on to explain that the Swedish Greens have now been in government with the Social Democrats for three years, listing some of their battles to green the country's economy: carbon taxes, innovation, a green budget with heavy investment in infrastructures for biofuel and electric vehicles, bikeways, smart cities, digitalisation, ecological agriculture, protecting forests, reducing plastic waste and better public transport.

He affirms that being in government entails difficult compromises. Being Green means needing a sense of urgency since the time to act against climate change and for environmental protection is now. In order to sustain change, radical reforms for the environment need to be accompanied by radical reforms for social justice and welfare, and most importantly by strong educational institutions to provide each citizen with the tools and knowledge necessary to live through such a change.

As Swedish Minister for Education, he is convinced this is a portfolio that every Green party should strive for. He mentions three basic priorities in the Green education policy he is pursuing in government: equity (through a heavily state-regulated financing system and initiatives to foster the inclusion of all students regardless of ethnic background, class, gender, sexual orientation, and against bullying and sexual harassment); the right support at the right time (investments in training and infrastructures to support students with special needs); and modern skills (introduction of IT-related training).

Gustav Fridolin concludes by underlining that change happens only when people long for it. The Greens are called upon not only to develop tools to achieve a better society, but to show in what ways society can benefit, thereby becoming the political actors and visionaries of the 21st century.

Plenary session

After Paris and Trump: how can we accelerate climate action?

16:00 – 18:00

Moderator: **Oras Tynkkynen**, EGP Committee member, Finland

Speakers:

- **Bill McKibben**, US environmental activist and author
- **Isabella Lövin**, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate, co-spokesperson of Miljöpartiet de gröna, Sweden
- **Paul Getsos**, National Director, People's Climate Movement, United States
- **Claire Roumet**, Executive Director, Energy Cities, France

Oras Tynkkynen welcomes the participants. He states the purpose of the plenary is to elaborate on where we stand on climate action and where we need to go. He outlines that new

discoveries in the transport sector show promising results for renewables. However, there is a lack of ambition in Europe, failing to agree on strategic alliances with the global South.

In a video-message, **Bill McKibben** emphasizes that now is the time to act. He thanks efforts to block the creation of the largest coalmine on the planet in Australia. He states that Trump presents a ditch to the momentum from Paris. He believes the current situation is in peril with natural catastrophes increasing. However, there is hope as engineers are finding new solutions every day. He says the focus should be on solar and wind technologies, with Trump not having the last word on this.

Isabella Lövin mentions that although emissions are falling, it is evident that climate change is continuing. There are many challenges, but there is also hope with renewable energy prices plummeting. However, change does not happen by itself.

She continues by listing the achievements of the Swedish Greens while in government. A notable achievement is the switching of energy sources from coal to hydrogen in the steel sector. Going green makes economic sense with a new wind farm being created in the north. But she also mentions the reality of increasing climate resistance, shown in a drop in the polls for the Greens in Sweden.

She concludes that EU action should be Paris-proof. The signatories to the Paris agreement entered into the Talanoa Dialogue which the Fijian COP presidency has pushed for. National action should go beyond agreed commitments.

Claire Roumet briefly introduces the 'Climate Cities Network Initiative'. The focus of its contribution is on energy rather than climate. Local realities show that as regards energy, an explosive transformation is ongoing. Currently, although many companies such as those in the car industry are ready for the energy change on the basis of new technologies, they still use traditional ones to make the biggest profit. Leadership is needed to push these actors to implement alternatives. Development should be based upon local initiatives.

Paul Getsos introduces the 'Peoples Climate Movement' and states that it started as a social justice movement rather than a climate movement. He continues by explaining developments after the Paris agreement. Examples such as the Sierra Club closing down coal plants and the Standing Rock movement created a culture of climate activism, preparing them for the entry into office of Donald Trump.

He says Trump is not a danger because of his actions but rather because he is breaking down the administration by electing people in the oil industry, defunding and leaving critical positions vacant.

Paul Getsos outlines three things the People Climate Movement must do: 1. Resist current developments by taking to the streets; 2. Build connections and networks with other progressive groups; and 3. Rise up and force elected officials to act on climate agreements during the mid-term elections in 2018.

He follows up with the results achieved to date and the challenges to come. He names the social and economic organisations and unions which have now come out openly in support of climate change action. Before 2014, trade unions did not participate in the climate movement but have now changed their stance. Results of acting on climate change have



mostly come from small and medium-sized cities but are based on pledges rather than actions. In addition, most cities are controlled by Republicans, making it vital for the People Climate Movement to adopt an electoral strategy. He continues to outline upcoming events with a focus on the Global Climate Action Summit, which is an opportunity to call for concrete results in the upcoming COP24.

He concludes by stating that climate change affects the poorest, making social and racial justice the backbone to climate action.

The floor is opened to questions from the audience. The questions are grouped in three themes: how can EU ambitions be raised; what role can Green local councillors play to speed up the energy transition, for example; and how can we make movements more inclusive?

Saturday, 25 November 2017

Plenary session

Closed session for Delegates on De Groenen Membership Withdrawal

8:30 – 9:00

Moderator: **Mar Garcia** and **Evelyne Huytebroeck**

Otto ter Haar and Miriam van Rijn are given the word to express their position. Questions from the floor are answered.

Plenary session

Discussion on the tabled resolutions

9:00 - 9:30

Plenary session

Green and Sustainable Cities

10:00 – 12:00

Moderator: **Evelyne Huytebroeck**, EGP Committee member, Member of the Brussels Parliament, Belgium

Speakers:

- **Karolina Skog**, Minister for Environment, Sweden
- **Bruno Charles**, Vice President of Lyon Metropolis, France
- **Dirk Holemans**, Ghent Councillor, Groen, Belgium

Evelyne Huytebroeck relates the choice of topic to the importance of cities in meeting emission reduction targets. Besides being high polluters, they also serve as laboratories for new innovation and solutions.

She continues by explaining how, under her term as environmental minister, she has managed to reduce emissions in Brussels. The key to success lies in the construction sector. She notes that Brussels is now one of the most sustainable cities in Europe.

Dirk Holemans states that Europe should be seen as a network of cities having to work together through, for example, digital platforms. He continues by outlining the importance of citizens' initiatives and their results until now. They are no longer a Utopian idea but a reality in a functional form. How to move from participation to co-creation? One answer could be the public-civil partnership as a new model to substitute the public-private partnership.

Cities are the new battlefields for sustainability. Examples include new innovation in the mobility sector involving cycle/pedestrian priority and entry-exit zones for cars. Although Greens are under-represented at the national level, Greens on the local/municipal level are achieving great accomplishments towards sustainability.

Karolina Skog points out that cities are at the heart of a fossil-free and sustainable future as well as the battleground for new governance solutions. She mentions urban transport and its environmental impact as the key challenge for cities to solve. For example, hard surfaces should be seen as a natural hazard rather than a given, as they are increasingly causing flash flooding. Greens need to involve external expertise in city planning. She outlines the successes and failures of measures introduced in Swedish cities. One success story was the connection made between transport and gender equality.

Bruno Charles outlines which sectors have been tackled to reduce the city's emissions. Redesigning areas/urban planning can reduce more emissions than simply just introducing electric cars. He continues by outlining biodiversity campaigns to re-naturalise the cities.

The floor is opened to questions from the audience. The questions centre on two main themes: the role of art and culture, and embracing technological changes (digitalization, artificial intelligence, big data, etc.).

Plenary session

Making globalisation work for the Sustainable Development Goals (organised by the Green Group in the European Parliament)

10:00-12:00

Moderator: **Jakop Dalunde**, MEP, Greens/EFA Group in the European Parliament, Sweden

Speakers:

- **Emma Nohrén**, Member of Parliament, Miljöpartiet de gröna, Sweden
- **Stefan Reinhold**, Corporate Regulation and Extractives Officer, CIDSE, Belgium
- **Daniel Badman**, Head of Public Affairs, Stora Enso Oyj, Finland
- **Martin Koehler**, Trade Advisor, Greens/EFA Group in the European Parliament, Belgium

Jakop Dalunde starts by setting the scene on globalisation: "Our goal is to ensure a sustainable path where no one is left behind".

Emma Nohrén:

- Agenda 2030 is the light in the dark in a world that has taken a negative turn.
- We face a huge climate threat, with globalisation making an impact on climate and deregulation.
- The private sector must be mobilised and we need to reach an inclusive multilateral approach.
- There is a need to be honest: globalisation creates winners and losers.

Daniel Badman:

- Stora Enso Oyj is the leading provider of renewable material, utilising wood and trees.
- Forests must be managed in the long term. Biomass in Swedish forests has doubled in 100 years.
- There is a need to embrace opportunities in globalisation as well as looking at challenges.
- The SDGs clarified the direction for business. Business looks at risk, SDGs put us on the right track.
- 90% of our forests live up to certification, but 25,000 do not.

Stefan Reinhold:

- Examples of where globalisation went wrong, such as a heavy dam bursting in South America.
- The EU Commission pushing free trade deals with extra rights for investors is not helpful.
- More FTAs do not lead to more growth but rather expand a 'commodity frontier', leading to deforestation.
- Pursuing a growth strategy can aggravate the problems.

Martin Koehler:

- Globalisation is now a matter of fact, but it is worthwhile looking at earlier fights against its harmful effects and where we have come from: IMF structural adjustments, debt trap, financial crisis, Asia crisis, 2007 EU crisis.
- The Mandelson doctrine for a global Europe was all free trade, but no checks.
- There is now a need to devise plans to re-regulate certain aspects of the economy to fulfil the SDGs.
- A mix of political and private elements is the new way to go – it is no longer one against the other.
- Examples of conflicts are minerals regulation, the Rana Plaza disaster, and certification for forests and illegal logging. There are different models for conflict resolution, all of which can be valid.

The statements are followed by a Q&A including the audience. Two main points are the voice of the global South missing in the debate, and agriculture/farming, keeping it local.



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Keynote speech

12:15 – 12:40

Chair: **Monica Frassoni**, EGP co-chair, Italy

Speaker: **Margot Wallström**, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Sweden

Monica Frassoni welcomes the guest of honour Margot Wallström, Sweden's Minister for Foreign Affairs, as a long-time friend of the European Greens. She briefly outlines Margot Wallström's political career as a fighter for a better Europe, for women and against sexual harassment and violence.

Margot Wallström advises the Greens to keep up their fight to protect the environment, a fight in which the established social democratic parties are lagging behind. She insists that most of today's challenges, such as climate change and poverty, require a long-term perspective to address them.

She introduces the issue of gender equality and gender violence, in particular during conflicts. She states that rape affects the whole social fabric, endangering the process for a sustainable peace. She calls on every political party to take responsibility in discussing and dealing with the issue.

She presents her feminist foreign policy which consists of a reality check on rights, representation and resources of and discrimination against women and girls around the world. This includes the decision of the Swedish government to compensate the US' withdrawal of support to UNFPA over women's sexual and reproductive rights as well as Sweden's support to the participation of women in peace-keeping training and missions. She considers this the unfinished business of our time and applauds the Greens for collaborating on the issue.

Turning to the discourse on Europe, she describes Brexit as an example of bad political leadership which might in fact have brought the rest of the EU closer together. According to her, the EU still has a lot to do, especially on Green issues that should become the core of the Union's policies. She recognises the struggle Green parties face when dealing with the issue of refugees. She stresses how there is a greater need than ever for humanitarian assistance, and warns how climate change will cause further migration and conflict over resources.

Margot Wallström concludes by calling for collaboration among the Greens to politically deal with the severity of these challenges, and remarking how it can take just one person in just one moment to change the course of history.

Plenary session

Meet the Swedish Greens

12:30 – 13:00

Moderator: **Lena Lindström**, EGP Committee member, Sweden

Speakers:

- **Janine Alm Ericson**, Member of Parliament, spokesperson for Finance and member of the Party Board, Sweden
- **Monika Bubholz**, Vice Mayor of Karlstad, Vice Chair of the Municipal Executive Board, Sweden
- **Peter Eriksson**, Minister for Housing and Digital Development, Sweden

Peter Eriksson gives a short historical context. The Swedish Green Party was founded and elected into parliament in 1981. In 1991, the Greens did not pass the threshold of 4% but re-entered parliament in 1994. After the 2015 national elections, the Greens joined government with 7.6%. They had their best result in the 2014 European elections with more than 15%.

Janine Alm Ericson explains the party structure and its geographical distribution. The party has a strong presence in the regions and in local governments and is part of the governing majority in about 100 cities and municipalities, more than any other party in Sweden. This means that local councillors and local chapters play a big role in shaping the Green agenda.

The party currently has 25 members of parliament at the national level, and the party board comprises 19 people.

Monika Bubholz sheds some light on the Karlstad board of the Green Party which has around 200 members and 40 active politicians.

This introduction is followed by a Q&A session including the floor. The answers cover the following topics:

Main topics for the Swedish Greens:

- Climate, migration, housing
- #MeToo: Law on sexual crimes went to the parliament for a vote recently, with the Greens having pushed for it for 10 years.

Biggest challenge:

- Being careful during election campaigns with making promises you cannot keep ("We will never...").

How does the Green Party sustain communication in such a developed structure?

- The party has communication channels for topical and structural working groups. Big party meetings are organised twice a year, plus many smaller events throughout the year.
- Good people at the top and trustworthy spokespersons are crucial.

Why do the Swedish Greens get better results at EU elections?

- Good candidates on the list
- Environment is higher on the agenda at the EU level than at the national level.

Plenary session

Green vision for Europe

16:30 – 18:30

Moderator: **Monica Frassoni**, EGP co-chair, Italy

Speakers:

- **Touko Aalto**, chair of Vihreät - De Gröna, Member of Parliament, Finland
- **Gustav Fridolin**, Minister for Education, co-spokesperson of Miljöpartiet de gröna, Sweden
- **Evelyne Huytebroeck**, EGP Committee member, Member of the Brussels Parliament, Belgium
- **Marjolein Meijer**, chair of GroenLinks, the Netherlands
- **Juan López de Uralde**, co-chair of EQUO, Member of Parliament, Spain
- **Wanja Kaufmann**, international secretary, Grön Ungdom, Sweden
- **Laura Laportella**, communication officer, Federazione dei Verdi, Italy
- **Kim van Sparrentak**, spokesperson, FYEG, Netherlands

Gustav Fridolin starts by saying that change is only possible if society wants it. He continues by questioning three myths about the Greens: 1. "Foreign affairs is not a national election topic". He holds that globalisation affects everyone and that climate change is global. 2. "The public is politically indifferent". Citizens are very much engaged in politics and increasingly so. However, they feel alienated in their political representation. 3. "Elections are won on the internet". Elections might be lost online through fake news and lies. However, it will not replace personal meetings and the trust built upon human interaction. He mentions that these myths translate into three crucial points: 1. Making political conflicts explicit. 2. Finding new ways to allow people to engage in politics. 3. Creating new arenas where citizens and politicians can interact.

Juan López de Uralde mentions three issues to concentrate on: 1. Europe is no longer perceived as a nice place to live, which has resulted in the rise of nationalism. 2. The impact of climate change in southern Europe is devastating. This provides an opportunity to change the political discourse. 3. There is a changing political reality. Unlike other countries, Spain is not witnessing a strong far-right movement, but rather more leftist movements. However, increasing extreme tendencies can also facilitate the better positioning of the Greens as a strong voice of the political centre.

He continues by asking the question of what the Greens should 'sell' in the upcoming European elections. He answers that we need a strong story to tell, with three strong, new ideas to build a coherent story upon: 1. Fight climate change with a positive attitude (e.g. creating green jobs). 2. Reducing working time. 3. Basic income. He emphasizes the importance of creating a common position in Europe.

He concludes by stressing the need to tackle corruption in politics rather than being dragged away by issues such as the Catalan independence.

Marjolein Meijer focuses on key issues to be addressed in order to gain the trust of the voters: citizens need to entrust a party with the power to govern the country. Proving this is the main priority. She outlines methods used by the Dutch Greens during election campaigns to achieve stronger participation in politics.

More discussions should evolve around Europe rather than on national issues. Issues of the political left should be addressed by Greens through social sustainability. "We need to be better social democrats. Green politics should not leave social politics to the socialists."

Touko Aalto structures his intervention along three aspects: the situation of the Finnish Greens, future plans and Europe. The polls for the Finnish Greens are currently at a historical high. They have to gain people's trust in their politics and in maintaining their own values.

With the goal of becoming the next governing party, the Finnish Greens have developed four main points to follow: 1. Overall economic politics, 2. Health-care reform, 3. Basic income and tackling unemployment, and 4. Tax reform.

His vision for Europe is based on five main points: 1. Education (such as the Erasmus programme), 2. Work (union-wide basic income), 3. Tax regulation, 4. Climate politics, and 5. Sustainable development.

Evelyne Huytebroeck wraps up the statements by outlining two ideas and two solutions. One is "a Europe that is more of a partner", a partnership instead of a leadership. This concerns national as well as regional and local levels of governance. Cities have a great opportunity to connect with citizens, and they also engage in international networks in which communication and mobilisation create efficient policy. Thus greater support for cities is vital for attracting new voters.

Second, "a Europe that is more human". Greens have always been promoters of socially equitable solutions during recent periods of crisis, distancing themselves from nationalist or other extreme ideas. This helped the Belgian Greens to increase their popularity.

Wanja Kaufmann, from the Swedish Young Greens, stresses the importance of sticking together as Greens.

Laura Laportella states that the most important issue for future generations is jobs. Instruments such as a new internship system or green jobs must be developed to create job security for future generations.

Kim van Sparrentak proposes three questions: 1. How broad a movement are the Greens and what measures are there to ensure this? 2. How do we deal with Euro-scepticism? We should avoid a debate on yes/no to Europe but rather on how to shape Europe. 3. Focus on climate change.

Sunday, 26 November 2017

Closed session for delegates

Membership relations (update for delegates only)

08:30 – 9:00

Mar Garcia welcomes the delegates for this session and reports on the work of the EGP Committee during the past half year. An overview is presented to visualise the work of the Committee. She informs on the development of the Activity Plan 2018 and explains how the Committee came to its conclusion not to organise a Green primary for the 2019 EU elections.

Plenary session

Presentation of finances

9:00 - 9:30

Moderator: **Thomas Waitz**

Speaker: **Lena Lindström**, EGP Committee member, Sweden

Accounts 2016

Lena Lindström presents the accounts 2016. The accounts and the audit report 2016 had not been finalised when the Congress took place in Liverpool in early April 2017. The Liverpool Council took the decision to mandate the EGP Committee to preliminarily adopt the accounts 2016 and bring them to the Autumn Council in Karlstad. She adds that the complete audit report, including the accounts, was sent to Council delegates in May 2017.

Total revenues increased by 15% compared to 2015, and the total expenditure by 16%, including the carry-over from 2015. The outcome of the year was a surplus of 80,000 EUR. Revenues and expenditure reached 95% of what was budgeted for. The own resources consisted mainly of the membership fees and are crucial in reaching the required 15% of own contribution to the EP grant. Income from membership fees increased due to the adopted membership fee increase in 2016. She explains the sources of income and the level of expenditure in the different categories of eligible expenditure. The surplus was used as a provision for the campaign fund. Thus, the budgeted provision of 100,000 EUR did not materialise, and neither did the provision to the Congress Fund. However, with the carry-over from 2015, the congress could still be fully financed.

Revised budget 2017

The budget 2017 was adopted at the Autumn 2016 Council in Glasgow at the beginning of December 2015. The EGP Committee revised the budget in July 2017 on the basis of updated information about the final EP grant 2017 and on budget deviations that became obvious by that time. The main reasons for presenting a revision of the budget was a lower EP grant (48,000 EUR down, due to a higher number of European political parties applying for a grant), compensated by a higher carry-over (40,000 EUR up). Contributions in kind needed to be adjusted as well, having budgeted for rather high contributions in view of the Congress 2017 (30,000 EUR down). In reality, contributions to the Congress by the partners were made in cash instead of in kind. On the expenditure side, the employer's contribution could be reduced due to a change in the Belgian law, as well as infrastructure costs (lower depreciation). Legal costs needed to be increased mainly due to legal advice necessary for the application process, registering as a European Political Party according to the new EU legislation. Costs for meetings could be reduced due to lower expenditure for the Congress. Further, the Committee proposes to increase the provision to the Campaign Fund in 2017. Thus, we will have 410,000 EUR in the Campaign Fund for the upcoming EU 2019 election campaign. She also mentions the need to increase the budget line for realized losses due to a case of Internet fraud that hit the EGP office.

Budget 2018

Being among the 10 EUPP legitimate to apply for EP funding (as against 16 in 2017), the EGP expects to receive a higher EP grant (2.2 million EUR compared to 1.8 in 2017) if we are able to reach the required own contribution. The other new condition is that contributions are no longer eligible, thereby reducing the potential own resources. This might lead to even bigger difficulties in reaching the maximum own resources required to receive the maximum possible EP grant. The third change is the increase of maximum possible contributions from the EGP to its affiliated organisations (FYEG and Global Greens) to 100,000 EUR. The expected outcome 2018 is 75,000 EUR to be put into the Congress Fund.

The main change in expenditures compared to the 2017 budget is the reduction of expenses for meetings, which arises from the fact that the Congress 2017 was financed in 2017 while expenses for campaigns (EU election campaign) will increase in 2018. She highlights that the expenditure for the election campaign (670,000 EUR) is an estimate and that the numbers can move between the two campaigning years 2018 and 2019. She mentions an existing very preliminary campaign budget which needs revision following the decision not to organise a Green primary. A more detailed campaign budget will be presented at the EGP Spring Council in May 2018.

A database and website for the ChangeMaking Network is foreseen with an investment of 80,000 EUR to be depreciated over 20 years, plus 20,000 EUR direct costs in 2018 to get the Network going.

Regarding the income, Lena Lindström highlights the 18% increase in the EP grant, a 25% increase in membership fees and an estimated carry-over of 120,000 EUR. Income from participations fees fell because there will be no income from a Congress as in 2017. Finally, a partial dissolution of the campaign is foreseen to be fund by 205,000 EUR (50% of the total fund).

She continues by pointing to the increase in the EP grant over the years while our own resources are not increasing at the same speed.

More income from membership fees stems from the fact that the Committee applied the rules for calculating the fees more strictly in line with the Rule Book. However, there will be a discussion with the member parties affected by this increase. She hints that the membership fees actually received might be lower than is currently budgeted. She concludes by saying that the structure of membership fees will have to be looked into in 2019/2020, starting with a working group which includes the member parties.

The proposal is to allocate 75,000 EUR to the Congress Fund.

The Financial Advisory Board gives its report and recommends approving the accounts 2016, revised budget 2017 and budget 2018.

Plenary session

Presentation of member parties

9:00 - 9:30

EGP Committee proposal for membership withdrawal of De Groenen, Netherlands

Mirjam van Rijn takes the floor on behalf of De Groenen. She emphasises that De Groenen will work hard to rebuild communities with the grass-root movements to become stronger, sharing knowledge with the voters and supporters. She asks people to have faith in De Groenen and to help them stay in the Green family.

Evelyne Huytebroeck, Committee member, briefly sums up the conclusions of the Committee report. In the eyes of the EGP Committee, De Groenen is not a credible, active political party, and it has not participated in national elections since 1998. The Committee does not take this lightly, but feels it needs to take its responsibility in safeguarding the credibility of the European Greens.

The chair clarifies that De Groenen are free to apply for membership in the future.

Application for full membership of Demokratska Obnova na Makedonija (DOM), Macedonia

The party representatives present the party with a slide show.

Application for membership of Verdi-Grüne-Vërc, South Tyrol, Italy

The party representatives present the party with a slide show.

Presentation of candidates for the election of two representatives from EGP member parties to the GEF General Assembly

After highlighting the gender balance that must be kept in mind, the chair explains that the Council delegates will be invited later that morning to elect the minimum of one woman and the maximum of one man. He then invites the four candidates to take the floor consecutively to give a brief presentation:

- Charles Berkow from the Swedish Greens
- Zaritsa Georgieva Dinkova from Zelenite Bulgaria
- Adam Ostolski from Zieloni Poland, and
- Marie Toussaint from EELV France.

Voting session

10:45 – 12:30

Co-chairs: - **Thomas Waitz**, EGP Committee member, MEP
- **Mar Garcia**, EGP Secretary General

Thomas Waitz informs the Council that there were 105 votes initially allocated. 4 allocated votes from 3 member parties were withdrawn because of unpaid membership fees 2017.

Hence, the total amount of allocated votes is now 101. A $\frac{3}{4}$ majority of the allocated votes is 76 votes in favour.

The delegates' presence list is attached to these minutes as Annex 4.

The electronic voting system is introduced to the delegates. In a trial vote, 99 out of 101 allocated votes are cast. The 50%+1 attendance quorum is thus reached.

Withdrawal of EGP membership De Groenen, Netherlands

Thomas Waitz opens the vote on the proposal of the Committee to withdraw the membership of De Groenen, Netherlands. He reminds the delegates that the abstentions are counted as a 'no' vote.

The EGP membership of De Groenen is withdrawn with 97 votes in favour, 1 vote against and 1 abstention.

Application for a full membership of Demokratska Obnova na Macedonija (DOM), Macedonia

Thomas Waitz opens the vote on the proposal of the Committee to accept DOM as a full member of the EGP.

DOM is accepted as a full member of EGP with 96 votes in favour, 1 vote against and 2 abstentions.

Application for a candidate membership of Verdi-Grüne-Vërc, South Tyrol, Italy

Thomas Waitz opens the vote on the proposal of the Committee to accept Verdi-Grüne-Vërc as a candidate member of the EGP.

Verdi-Grüne-Vërc is accepted as a candidate member of EGP with 99 votes in favour, none against and no abstentions.

Thomas Waitz informs the delegates that one more vote has been distributed and the total number of votes present in the room is now 100 votes.

Election of representatives to General Assembly of Green European Foundation (GEF)

Thomas Waitz invites the delegates to vote for four candidates and explains that 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.

In the first round, Charles Berkow gains 30 votes (30%), Zaritsa Georgieva 15 votes (15%), Adam Ostolski 36 votes (36%) and Marie Toussaint 19 votes (19%).

As none of the candidates has reached more than 50%, Thomas Waitz invites the delegates to vote on the two top nominations: Charles Berkow and Adam Ostolski.

Adam Ostolski gains 59 votes (59%) and Charles Berkow 41 votes (41 %). Adam Ostolski is thus elected as EGP representative to the GEF General Assembly.



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Thomas Waitz explains that following the 50%+ gender rule: only the female candidates are eligible for nomination in the second round. He invites the delegates to elect the second representative among Zaritsa Georgieva and Marie Toussaint.

Thomas Waitz informs the delegates that the last allocated vote has been distributed and that the total number of votes in the room is now 101.

Zaritsa Georgieva gains 46 votes (45.5%) and Marie Toussaint 55 votes (54.5%). Thus, Marie Toussaint is elected as a second EGP representative to the GEF General Assembly.

Thomas Waitz thanks Charles Berkow and Zaritsa Georgieva for their nominations.

Thomas Waitz thanks Marie Utter for her work as an EGP representative to the GEF General Assembly in the previous term.

Thomas Waitz informs the delegates that for the rest of decisions, a two-third majority of the votes cast is required. For amendments to resolutions and other documents a simple majority of the votes cast is required.

Draft minutes of the Liverpool Congress, 30 March-2 April 2017

Thomas Waitz invites the Council to vote on the draft minutes of the Liverpool Congress, 30 March-2 April 2017.

The draft minutes of the Liverpool Congress, 30 March-2 April 2017 are adopted unanimously.

Draft minutes of the Liverpool Council, 31 March 2017

Thomas Waitz invites the Council to vote on the amendment 1 to the draft minutes of the Liverpool Council, 31 March 2017, replacing the word 'Liverpool' with 'Glasgow'.

Amendment (AM) 1 is adopted unanimously.

Thomas Waitz invites the Council to vote on the draft minutes of the Liverpool Council, 31 March 2017 as amended. The draft minutes for Liverpool Council, 31 March 2017 are adopted as amended with 3 abstentions.

Draft Activity Plan 2018

Thomas Waitz informs the Council that during the compromise amendments session (CAS), compromises were found for all amendments to draft Activity Plan 2018. He invites a vote on all compromise amendments en block. All compromise amendments are adopted unanimously.

Thomas Waitz invites the Council to vote on the draft Activity Plan 2018 as amended. The draft Activity Plan 2018 as amended is adopted unanimously.

Finances 2016

Thomas Waitz invites the Council to vote on the adoption of the accounts 2016, activity report 2016 and the audit report by Ernst & Young. The financial documents 2016 are adopted unanimously.

Finances 2017

Thomas Waitz invites the Council to vote on the revised budget 2017. The revised budget 2017 is adopted unanimously.

Finances 2018

Thomas Waitz invites the Council to vote on the draft budget 2018. The draft budget 2018 is adopted with 5 abstentions.

Thomas Waitz invites the Council to vote on the draft membership fees 2018. The draft membership fees 2018 are adopted with 2 votes against and 7 abstentions.

EGP Statutes

Thomas Waitz explains that on 20 July 2017, the Authority for the Recognition of European Political Parties and Foundations recognised the EGP according to Regulation 1141/2014. It did so on the condition that the EGP revises two aspects of its statutes: the statutes must explicitly mention the non-pursuit of profit goals and a wrong reference in Article 12.3 needs to be corrected. In this respect, the Committee prepared a list of proposed amendments to the Statutes (attached to these minutes as Annex 1).

Thomas Waitz invites the Council to vote on the proposed changes en block. The proposed changes to the EGP Statutes are adopted unanimously with no abstentions.

Thomas Waitz explains that in accordance with article 50, §3 of the Belgian law of 27 June 1921, the decision to modify the Statutes needs to be incorporated in a notary deed.

Thomas Waitz invites the Council to vote on a special proxy in this respect:

“The Council decides to grant a special proxy to Mrs Elise De Baerdemaeker, Mrs Leen Van Goethem or Mrs Laura Schuurmans of Law Square Attorneys, acting alone, to appear before a Belgian notary in order to notarise the modifications to the statutes of the Association as decided upon by the Council here above.”

The special proxy is adopted unanimously with no abstentions.

Furthermore, Thomas Waitz invites the Council to adopt an updated version of the membership list (Annex B to the Statutes; attached to these minutes as Annex 3).

The updated annex B is adopted unanimously with no abstentions. This annex B does not need to be notarised.

The complete new text of the EGP Statutes (reflecting the adopted amendments) is attached to these minutes as Annex 3.

Resolution “Towards 2019: Let us move Europe!”

Thomas Waitz invites the Council to vote AM 2 from the ENGS to change the title of the resolution. AM 2 is rejected with 9 votes in favour (8.9%), 76 votes against (75.2%) and 16 abstentions (15.8%).

Thomas Waitz invites the Council to vote en block on the compromise amendments agreed during the CAS sessions. The compromise amendments are adopted en block with 3 abstentions.

Thomas Waitz invites the Council to vote on the resolution as amended. The resolution “Towards 2019: Let us move Europe!” is unanimously adopted as amended.

Resolution “ChangeMaking Network”

Thomas Waitz invites the Council to vote on the compromise amendment agreed during CAS session. The compromise amendment is unanimously adopted.

Thomas Waitz invites the Council to vote on the resolution as amended. The resolution ‘ChangeMaking Network’ is adopted as amended with 3 abstentions.

Resolution ‘A different vision of CAP: building food and farming systems that are fair, environmentally aware, healthy and caring across Europe and the world’

Thomas Waitz informs the delegates that there were 67 amendments submitted to this draft resolution and that a compromise was found for all AMs at the CAS session.

He invites the Council to vote en block on the compromise amendments agreed during the CAS session. The compromise amendments are adopted en block with 3 abstentions.

Thomas Waitz invites the Council to vote on the resolution as amended. The resolution ‘A different vision of CAP’ is unanimously adopted as amended.

Resolution ‘Mining policy: Environmental protection should not be subordinated to resource extraction in the EU’

Thomas Waitz invites the Council to vote en block on the compromise amendments agreed at the CAS session. All compromise amendments are adopted with 1 abstention.

Thomas Waitz invites the Council to vote on the resolution as amended. The resolution ‘Mining policy: Environmental protection should not be subordinated to resource extraction in the EU’ is unanimously adopted as amended.

Resolution ‘Prevention of deforestation in Ukraine’

Thomas Waitz invites the Council to vote en block on the compromise amendments agreed at the CAS session. All compromise amendments are unanimously adopted.

Thomas Waitz invites the Council to vote on the resolution as amended. The resolution ‘Prevention of deforestation in Ukraine’ is unanimously adopted as amended.

Resolution 'A format for tabling EGP resolutions'

Thomas Waitz informs the Council that the vote on this resolution is postponed. It was agreed in the CAS session to bring the issue to the Amendments Committee, which will prepare a proposal for the next Council.

Resolution 'Renewing and rejuvenating the Greens'

Thomas Waitz points out the technical change in the text on line 67: the word "resources" has been agreed in the CAS session but was not included in the printed copies. The correct agreed text reads: "...giving adequate space *and resources*...".

FYEG points out that there is another change that has not been incorporated in the CAS text as distributed: it was agreed in the CAS session to merge the 2nd and 3rd paragraphs and make them shorter and more concise. Thomas Waitz proposes to postpone the vote on these amendments until after the last resolution, and in the meantime to clarify the correct text as agreed by the CAS. The proposal is carried.

Resolution 'On the UK ratification referendum - support for a ratification referendum on the terms of the exit deal'

GPEW clarifies that the title as was agreed at the CAS session reads 'Support for a ratification ...', instead of 'On the support for a ratification...'. Subsequently, it is suggested to amend the title as follows: 'Support for a ratification referendum on the terms of the UK exit deal'.

Thomas Waitz invites the Council to vote en block on the compromise amendments agreed during CAS session, including the revised title. All compromise amendments are adopted with 2 abstentions.

Thomas Waitz invites the Council to vote on the resolution as amended. The resolution 'Support for a ratification referendum on the terms of the UK exit deal' as amended is adopted with 12 abstentions.

Resolution 'On the situation in Catalonia'

Thomas Waitz invites the Council to vote en block on the compromise amendments agreed during CAS session. All compromise amendments are adopted with 1 abstention.

Thomas Waitz invites the Council to vote on the resolution as amended. The resolution 'On the situation in Catalonia' is adopted with 1 abstention.

Resolution 'Opposing the discrimination against disabled people'

Thomas Waitz informs the Council that it was agreed to postpone the discussion about this resolution to the next Council. The disability network will prepare a proposal for the next Council in cooperation with the Scottish Green Party.

Resolution 'On Russia'



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Thomas Waitz invites the Council to vote en block on the compromise amendments agreed at the CAS session. All compromise amendments are adopted with 5 abstentions.

Thomas Waitz invites the Council to vote on the resolution as amended. The resolution 'On Russia' is adopted with 2 abstentions.

Resolution 'On uncontrolled forest fires in Southern Europe'

Thomas Waitz invites the Council to vote en block on the compromise amendments agreed at the CAS session. All compromise amendments are unanimously adopted.

Thomas Waitz invites the Council to vote on the resolution as amended. The resolution 'On uncontrolled forest fires in Southern Europe' is unanimously adopted.

Resolution 'Renewing and rejuvenating the Greens' (continued)

Thomas Waitz invites the FYEG to explain the change. Kim van Sparrentak, FYEG spokesperson clarifies that during the first CAS it was agreed to merge the second and third paragraphs and shorten them. The correct text is shown on the screen.

Thomas Waitz invites the Council to vote en block on the compromise amendments agreed at the CAS session as projected on the screen. All compromise amendments are adopted.

Thomas Waitz explains that there is one amendment left (AM5) where a partial compromise has been found. He proposes that the Council votes on the second part of the amendment as modified by the CAS.

Thomas Waitz invites the Council to vote on the addition of the sentence: "...encourage to have at least one seat for a representative from the youth wing in every board within the mother party". The amendment is adopted with 8 abstentions.

Thomas Waitz invites the Council to vote on the resolution as amended. The resolution 'Renewing and rejuvenating the Greens' is unanimously adopted.

Thomas Waitz closes the voting session.

Closing remarks

Monica Frassoni, EGP co-chair, informs the delegates that the next Council will take place in Antwerp, Belgium, and invites everybody to attend!

Mar Garcia, EGP Secretary General, thanks Thomas Waitz for chairing the voting session, makes some closing remarks and closes the Council meeting.

Council ends.

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Minutes drafted and signed on 21 December 2017.

Mar Garcia
Secretary General EGP

Annexes:

1. list of proposed amendments to the Statutes
2. updated version of the membership list (annex B to the Statutes)
3. new text of the EGP Statutes (reflecting the adopted amendments)
4. Delegates presence list