

EUROPEAN GREEN PARTY

COMMON MANIFESTO

FINAL DRAFT – COMPROMISE PROPOSAL – 2.0

## 1 INTRODUCTION

2 believe that Europe, that the EU, is our common home and our future. That future is under threat. To  
3 safeguard our common future we want to change Europe, to strengthen it. That is why we stand for  
4 more solidarity and solidity, sustainability and justice than we find in Europe European Union (B today.  
5 We fight for stronger European democracy than exists today. We invite you to join us in building new  
6 European unity on this basis. Europe the EU and its member states who still hold many important  
7 keys to European progress, have been failing many of its citizens.

8 The idea of Europe European Integration has been met with growing frustration, fear, even with anger,  
9 because in the crisis many social, democratic and economic achievements have been threatened or  
10 destroyed. At the moment, 25% of Europe the EU's citizens are at risk of poverty and social exclusion.  
11 People are afraid. Europe is in crisis for many reasons. We have for instance allowed unacceptable  
12 risk-taking and greed by unleashing financial markets, resulting in high unemployment, stagnation,  
13 increased social division and injustice. Our economic model is not sustainable and is undermining its  
14 ability to create prosperity. The global climate conferences in the past years have demonstrated how  
15 dangerously far we are removed from avoiding catastrophic climate change. There is still not enough  
16 political will to achieve a turn-around. Short-termism and narrow lobbyist interests seem to prevail.

17 We invite you to join us in our efforts to turn anger about all this into new hope. Europe The  
18 European Union must change. Europe, indeed, needs fundamental transformation. DEAR EUROPEAN  
19 CITIZEN;

20 We the European Greens have two reasons for addressing you: We want you to participate in the  
21 European Parliament elections on May 22nd-25th, 2014. And we want you to vote Green.

## 22 LET'S BUILD EUROPE TOGETHER - BY CHANGING WHAT'S WRONG

23 We Greens If we give room to populism, nationalism or economic chauvinism, then no region, no  
24 country, no part of Europe will remain or become prosperous. In a globalised world, facing the  
25 daunting social, environmental and security challenges ahead, our European answer cannot be to  
26 revert to national boundaries. Only together will we Europeans be successful. But we must set the  
27 right priorities! We need fair economic cooperation that respects our ecological responsibilities. We  
28 need solidarity within and between our nations. We need a strong democracy. We must live our  
29 values, upholding freedom and liberties domestically and internationally. The Europe we fight for is not  
30 self-satisfied, but ambitious. It refuses to condone failure in European policies. It is able to better  
31 embrace the necessary change towards more sustainability and a good life for all its people.

## 32 CRISIS CREATES ANXIETY AND ANGER – WE WANT TO BUILD HOPE AND SECURITY

33 Hope and security and peace, that's why so many Europeans supported the European unification  
34 project in its early years. Europe This Union has delivered on peace. European unity freed the  
35 continent from centuries of antagonism and war. European Integration inspired the removal of  
36 dictatorships and authoritarian regimes in many European countries. But more recently,

## 37 DEAR EUROPEAN CITIZEN,

38 We want to invite you to participate in the European Parliament elections on May 22nd-25th, 2014.  
39 And we want you to vote Green. This year sees the 100th anniversary of the start of the First World  
40 War and is 57 years after the Treaty of Rome marked the founding of what is now the European  
41 Union. European unification has freed the continent from centuries of antagonism and war. It has  
42 inspired the removal of dictatorships and authoritarian regimes across most of our continent. It has  
43 enabled the economic reconstruction of its member states in a spirit of social justice, and is making

44 our continent a pioneer of environmental sustainability. Each enlargement has enriched our cultures,  
45 enabled us to recognise each other, making us all part of the same challenging project. There is no  
46 doubt about it that the building of the European Union up to this point has been an historic  
47 achievement.

#### 48 EUROPE IS NOW AT THE CROSSROADS

49 We Greens believe that Europe is our common home and our future. Yet, that future is under threat.  
50 If the EU's achievements are to be preserved and enhanced, now is the time for a fundamental  
51 political reorientation and for a democratic renewal of the European Union. To safeguard our  
52 common future we want to change Europe to strengthen it. That is why we stand for more solidarity,  
53 sustainability and justice. If we give room to populism, nationalism or economic chauvinism, then no  
54 region, no country, no part of Europe will remain or become prosperous on its own. In a globalised  
55 world, it is only by acting together that we stand a chance of meeting the daunting social,  
56 environmental, economic and security challenges ahead. We need fair economic cooperation that  
57 respects our ecological responsibilities. We need solidarity within and between our nations. We need  
58 a strong democracy. We must live our values, upholding freedom and liberties domestically and  
59 internationally.

#### 60 CRISIS CREATES ANXIETY AND ANGER – WE WANT TO BUILD HOPE AND SECURITY

61 Neo-liberal de-regulation has created financial markets solely driven by short-term greed resulting in  
62 the global financial crisis that is still with us today. The crisis has threatened or destroyed many social,  
63 democratic and economic achievements and as a consequence the conception of the European Union  
64 is now being challenged by a growing sense of frustration, fear, and even anger. The medicine of  
65 austerity that has been prescribed for several years now to countries in crisis has increased social  
66 division and injustice, jeopardized the well-being of many of our fellow citizens, undermined the  
67 capacity of our societies prosper, and crucially, weakened democracy. Today, 25% of Europeans are at  
68 risk of poverty or social exclusion; 27 million are unemployed, including almost one out of five young  
69 Europeans! The most fragile end up paying the heaviest price of the crisis. We are therefore not  
70 surprised that this injustice is stirring fear and anger across our continent. While we share that anger,  
71 we want to turn it into hope. At the same time the environmental crisis persists. Our economic  
72 model is not sustainable. The continued failure to reach a global agreement at the climate  
73 conferences demonstrates how far we are from avoiding catastrophic climate change. Short-termism  
74 and the narrow interests of lobbyists continue to prevail. Europe is essential to build the more  
75 sustainable, democratic and equal society we are calling for. Think of it: taming the forces of financial  
76 markets and of global corporations, effectively fighting tax fraud and evasion, transforming Europe's  
77 energy supply to combat runaway climate change. These are all examples of urgent actions that are  
78 beyond the capabilities of even the largest of our member states. We need cooperation within the EU  
79 to effectively deal with these issues.

80 The transformation we advocate must go hand in hand with a democratic re-foundation. We want a  
81 European Union that pioneers a more direct and participative democracy. Executive bodies such as  
82 the European Commission and Central Bank must be held accountable for their actions. The EU must  
83 be an effective multi-level democracy, respecting subsidiarity and making its diversity one of its best  
84 assets.

#### 86 YOUR VOTE MATTERS – DON'T LET THOSE WHO WANT TO RUIN EUROPE WIN LET'S FIGHT 87 FOR A EUROPEAN ALTERNATIVE

88 We want you to join us in the fight for an economic, political and social transformation that will build  
89 future prosperity on the basis of sustainable development and a Green renaissance of our industry.

90 With coherent and sustained policies new investment and many Green jobs can be created,  
91 constituting good and decent work, equal pay, workers' rights, increased economic mobility, regional  
92 development and better opportunities for small and medium sized enterprises or social businesses.  
93 We insist on a European energy policy, which will mitigate climate change: Yes to renewables and  
94 energy efficiency, phase-out to nuclear and coal and no shale gas. All this is part of our Green New  
95 Deal.~~We want you to join us in the fight for an economic transformation that will build future~~  
96 ~~prosperity on the basis of sustainable development and a Green renaissance of our industry. Here~~  
97 ~~many Green jobs can be created, constituting good and decent work, equal pay, workers' rights,~~  
98 ~~increased economic mobility, regional development and better opportunities for small and medium~~  
99 ~~sized enterprises or social companies. We insist on a European energy policy, which will mitigate~~  
100 ~~climate change: Yes to renewables and energy efficiency, no to nuclear or more coal and shale gas. All~~  
101 ~~this we call a Green New Deal.~~

102 ~~We~~ Greens remain reliable advocates of environmental responsibility. Help us take a strong stance  
103 against those on the right or on the left and from the lobbies, who would rather block progress. We  
104 demand more sustainable agricultural policies and have played a strong role in reforming the EU's  
105 fisheries policy. We advocate more transparency and corporate responsibility. We have consistently  
106 promoted consumer and citizens' rights.~~We demand more sustainable agricultural policies and have~~  
107 ~~played a strong role in reforming the EU's fisheries policy. We have consistently promoted consumer~~  
108 ~~rights.~~ Environmentalism is also a social responsibility. If we destroy the environment, we destroy the  
109 basis of our economy and well-being.

110 ~~We~~ Greens mobilize under the banner of social justice against social exclusion, of sustainability  
111 against austerity. We want to live our lives as men and women in which security and opportunity are  
112 not just tales from yesteryear. We want to live our lives as persons for whom security and  
113 opportunity are not just tales from yesteryear. Here, without doubt, ~~Europe~~ the EU must change  
114 direction! We want to fight against youth unemployment, against homelessness, against poverty and  
115 hopelessness. Where member states refuse or fail to deliver, together as Europeans citizens we can  
116 overcome that. Let us strengthen a social European Union.

117 We see individual emancipation, freedom and liberties for all as very much under threat. Think of  
118 private and state-organized mass surveillance or the infringement on human rights of minorities like  
119 immigrants, the LGBTI+ community or the Roma. We must not tolerate age, ethnic origin, belief, on  
120 antisemitism, islamophobia on anti-semitism or anti-muslim attitudes, hate based on race, gender,  
121 sexual orientation, any discrimination based on any ground, such as sex, race, colour, ethnic or social  
122 origin, genetic features, language, religion or belief, political or any other opinion, membership of a  
123 national minority, property, birth, disability, age or sexual orientation or any other pretext. Gender  
124 equality is a fundamental principle of the European Union. There is however a huge gap between the  
125 recognition of a right and its implementation and legal progress achieved. We Greens support a dual  
126 approach for promoting gender equality and women's empowerment: gender mainstreaming and clear  
127 and binding targets in order to achieve gender equality at all levels.

128 We need a digital bill of rights, that guarantees our inherited liberties in the digital age. We helped  
129 defeat the "Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement" (ACTA), that threatened our freedom. We  
130 defended the right to water against privatization pressure. Such fights are touch on Europe's core  
131 values.~~We need a digital bill of rights. We helped defeat the dangerous "Anti-Counterfeiting Trade~~  
132 ~~Agreement" (ACTA). We defended the right to water. These are fights over the very soul of Europe.~~

133 ~~We~~ Greens want to re-vitalize European democracy. Lobbyists, technocrats and populists have  
134 weakened it. The strength of lobbies, the narrow defence of their own interest by national  
135 governments, the power given to technocrats without democratic control, and the simplistic blame-

136 | [game of populists, have all weakened democracy.](#) The European Parliament must be strengthened and  
137 | have control over the policies which the European Commission, [the IMF](#) and the European Central  
138 | Bank pursue within the so-called troika. Citizens must be better heard and have a more active say  
139 | through direct democracy. That starts at home, by defending for instance local self-rule, where the EU  
140 | has no business meddling. It includes pushing back against excessive lobbying. We also want more  
141 | gender democracy: more women in Europe's institutions and in the boardrooms of EU companies.  
142 | We should not shy away from sharing our sovereignty, where this is the [only](#) way of keeping it: as with  
143 | the banking union, the financial transaction tax and the struggle for tax justice and against tax evasion  
144 | and tax havens.

145 | ~~We~~ Greens want the EU to pursue a policy of good neighbourliness on our borders and abroad. [This](#)  
146 | [includes sharing culture and having joint education projects, and means](#) ~~This includes not~~  
147 | ~~closing~~ [keeping open](#) the door on enlargement. We promote global justice, fair trade, protecting  
148 | human rights, civil conflict prevention and multilateral conflict solutions. Europe must be a fair haven  
149 | for refugees, not fortress Europe. A [Europe](#) of global responsibility benefits the world and ourselves.

## 150 IT IS YOUR CHOICE

151 | As the directly elected voice of the European citizens, the European Parliament is the joint lawmaker,  
152 | together with national governments, on topics that influence your daily lives, from work safety to  
153 | innovation and new jobs, from consumer protection to environmental policy, from food safety and  
154 | animal protection to data privacy to gender equity [as well as EU funded local and regional projects](#)  
155 | [for sustainable development and social inclusion.](#) Many local and regional projects rely on financing  
156 | through European funds.

157 | ~~We~~ Greens make a difference in the European Parliament. We want to continue this with greater  
158 | strength. For this we need your support, your vote. Help changing Europe, vote Green!

159 | YOU are Europe. Thank you for listening to us.

## 160 EUROPE NEEDS A GREEN NEW DEAL

161 | The ~~European Union~~ in the present crisis has not been delivering on its promises to a great number  
162 | of its citizens. And it has been everything but unified on how to change for the better. This is why we  
163 | ~~the~~ Greens propose to you a new strategy.

164 | We Europeans should unite our strengths in order to shape our own future. That is what sovereignty  
165 | means. Instead of ~~the~~ a socially deaf and environmentally blind austerity, we propose three coherent  
166 | avenues towards sustainability: ~~re-regulating the financial industry so it serves the real economy;~~  
167 | ~~transforming our economies with eco-efficient solutions to innovate and to tackle climate change and~~  
168 | ~~environmental degradation; fighting unemployment, poverty and all forms of social injustice. fighting~~  
169 | ~~unemployment, poverty and all forms of social injustice; transforming our economies with eco-~~  
170 | ~~efficient solutions to innovate and to tackle climate change and environmental degradation; re-~~  
171 | ~~regulating the financial industry so it serves the real economy.~~ We call this a European Green New  
172 | Deal.

## 173 SOLIDARITY, SOLIDITY AND SUSTAINABILITY

174 | We ~~don't~~ want ~~Europe to relieve the EU and its member states to rely on a level of debt that is~~  
175 | ~~excessive and burdens citizens and future generations. addiction to excessive debt the its from~~ That  
176 | includes bringing financial debt, be it public or private, back to sustainable levels and make sure it  
177 | funds sustainable value-creating investments. This will require cases of restructuring public and private  
178 | debt. Equally, we must address social debt: reducing unemployment, poverty and inequalities,  
179 | improving health and education. This requires strong investment efforts. Last but not least, it requires  
180 | addressing the environmental debt: tackling climate change, the exhaustion of finite resources and the  
181 | erosion of biodiversity. ~~We need a living countryside, with sustainable agriculture and economically~~  
182 | ~~and socially vibrant rural areas as well as abundant fish stocks to support coastal communities.~~ A  
183 | debt-fueled economy is not sustainable. By becoming world leaders in inventing and delivering  
184 | solutions that make a good life possible for everyone while respecting the limits of our planet,  
185 | Europeans we will find the key to a new economic dynamic for jobs and prosperity. We reject the so-  
186 | called pact on competitiveness as this would entail wage cuts, reduction of social welfare schemes and  
187 | privatization of public goods. ~~Fiscal sustainability must go hand-in-hand with equally strong social and~~  
188 | ~~environmental sustainability. Austerity as imposed in the recent economic crisis takes us dramatically~~  
189 | ~~in the opposite direction. Fiscal sustainability must go hand-in-hand with equally strong social and~~  
190 | ~~environmental sustainability; and stronger shoulders must carry more of the burden. Austerity as~~  
191 | ~~imposed in the recent economic crisis takes us dramatically in the opposite direction.~~

## 192 LAYING THE FOUNDATION OF A SOCIAL EUROPE

193 | Social justice is a fundamental value of Europe. The past thirty years have seen a rise in inequalities of  
194 | income and wealth. Lack of structural reforms, missing investments for the future and the austerity  
195 | policies have made things worse to the point that a growing number of ~~Europeans~~ European citizens  
196 | are now deprived of access to even basic health services.

197 | One of the key elements of injustice is widespread unemployment, particularly youth unemployment: ~~or~~  
198 | ~~old age poverty~~ Political measures that promise relief, such as the European Youth Guarantee  
199 | Scheme will not be successful unless adequately funded and above all underpinned by a strong policy  
200 | of job creation. ~~Europe~~ The EU must put an end to social dumping: zero-hours contracts, low-pay  
201 | mini-jobs and unfair internships. ~~We~~ Greens advocate fair and gradually converging minimum social  
202 | standards in Europe in accordance with national conditions and labour market models – particularly  
203 | in terms of job quality and security, of wages, of public health, of pensions. We want to move towards  
204 | better portability of social benefits through the introduction of a European social card which

205 streamlines administrative processes across countries and which makes a genuine European  
206 citizenship more concrete. We want the European Central Bank to include employment among its  
207 policy objectives. Moreover, to boost employment in Europe we need to work further to make the  
208 project of the Single Market fully operational, particularly in the area of free movement of workers  
209 and services. Shaping a better and more inclusive Europe also requires fighting against the spread of  
210 child-poverty and homelessness.

211 We advocate the inclusion of a social progress clause in European law: which emphasis the priority of  
212 building social Europe. Social balance across Europe must address the threat of a brain-drain -  
213 especially of the youth - away from crisis-stricken regions and the exploitation of migrant workers,  
214 while respecting the fundamental right to free movement. ~~Social balance across Europe the EU must~~  
215 ~~address the threat of a brain-drain away from peripheral regions and the exploitation of migrant~~  
216 ~~workers, while respecting the fundamental right to free movement.~~ The Greens wish to see new  
217 instruments developed to mitigate larger differences in economic cycles including unemployment  
218 rates. We ~~Greens~~ promote the emancipation of women in society and in the economy. "Equal  
219 payment for equal work" must be a standard all over the EU, as well as equal representation of  
220 women in company boards. ~~Having a family should not be an obstacle to a successful career for both~~  
221 ~~men and women. Having a family or sharing care should not be obstacles to a successful career for~~  
222 ~~both men and women. To counter age discrimination Greens do oppose any age limits to public~~  
223 ~~services and we stand for the implementation of reliable basic standards in the pension models of all~~  
224 ~~member states.~~

## 225 BRINGING FINANCIAL INDUSTRY UNDER CONTROL

226 Five years after the outset of the financial crisis, our system remains dominated by banks that are too  
227 big or too interconnected to fail and therefore too dangerous. Bank bail-outs have cost billions to the  
228 European taxpayers; this should never happen again. We want to ensure a properly sized, diverse and  
229 resilient financial sector that serves society and helps mobilizing sustainable investments in the real  
230 economy. We propose stringent rules for the separation of banking activities into those which are  
231 essential to society and those which are not. Greens have contributed strongly that financial products  
232 and activities which produce no benefit for the real economy and have the potential to destabilize the  
233 financial system can be banned and taken off the European market. European authorities should make  
234 use of this possibility. Only financial products and activities which demonstrate benefits for society  
235 must be authorized. We want to ensure consumers receive good, independent advice on all financial  
236 services. Financial services legislation must not support further concentration of market power at the  
237 detremental of small sustainable banks.

238 We advocate a European banking union, combining a strong common oversight of our banks, a  
239 common authority and fund to restructure failing banks and a common system of insurance for  
240 deposits up to 100.000 Euro or equivalent. ~~We~~ Greens are proud of achievements in this domain to  
241 date: ~~We~~ banned naked speculation on sovereign debt; curbed bankers' bonuses; forced banks  
242 to disclose activities in tax havens; submitted the European Central Bank's banking supervision to  
243 more democratic accountability. We need to build on these successes. EU institutions must also  
244 contribute to tackling financial short-termism that limits the level of sustainability ambition in  
245 strategic investment decisions.

## 246 PUBLIC FINANCES: FAIR AND EFFECTIVE TAXATION

247 At the moment, the tax burden weighs disproportionately on low and medium income earners  
248 the bulk of the tax burden weighs on the least privileged citizens and on the small and medium  
249 enterprises, while an estimated 1.000 billion Euro annually escape through evasion and fraud. Our goal

250 is to restore tax justice and efficiency. We want to reduce the tax burden on labour and move  
251 towards taxing pollution and waste. We will do our utmost to enact a financial transaction tax despite  
252 powerful lobbies opposed to this plan. As we want large corporations and wealthy individuals to  
253 contribute their fair share, we advocate a more common European approach at corporate and wealth  
254 taxation, including minimum rates. Last but not least, we advocate a common offensive against tax  
255 evasion, tax fraud and tax havens, starting by putting an end to bank secrecy. Last but not least, we  
256 advocate a common offensive against tax evasion, tax fraud and tax havens, starting by putting an end  
257 to bank secrecy. We also want that an end be put to the unanimity rule in tax matters, which should  
258 be subject to co-decision by the EU Council and Parliament. On the expenditure side, Greens  
259 explicitly fight wasteful and ecologically harmful spending such as fossil fuel subsidies or nuclear  
260 programmes such as the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER). Managing legacy  
261 public debt together, by setting up a debt redemption fund and gradually issuing common debt  
262 instruments (Eurobonds) under clearly defined and realistic common fiscal discipline rules are key  
263 moves in order to ensure the sustainability of public finances. In order to revive economies in crisis  
264 and preserve the monetary union, we advocate an increase in the EU budget, primarily funded by own  
265 resources, and the creation of financial solidarity instruments aimed at helping to finance the  
266 economic recovery.

## 267 RISE: RENAISSANCE OF INDUSTRY FOR A SUSTAINABLE EUROPE

268 ~~We want to transform our European economy into a global champion of energy and resource~~  
269 ~~efficiency based on renewable energies instead of fossil and nuclear fuels. We want to transform our~~  
270 ~~European economy into a global champion of energy and resource efficiency based on less energy-~~  
271 ~~intensive technologies and renewable energies and on improving the way we manage, use, reuse,~~  
272 ~~recycle, substitute and value resources. We want resource efficiency and eco-innovation to underpin~~  
273 ~~policies and investment in all sectors of the economy. This Green offensive will create many quality~~  
274 ~~new jobs in a variety of industries for high-skilled as well as low-skilled workers, and it will enhance~~  
275 ~~working conditions and workers health. It will also enhance future economic resilience and~~  
276 ~~competitiveness. Industry should not follow false leads like shale gas or converting food to fuel.~~  
277 ~~Rather it should become a key partner in this innovation-oriented Green transformation by~~  
278 ~~promoting. Eco-design rules, public procurement, state aid rules, private investment, promoting small~~  
279 ~~and medium sized enterprises and cooperatives, fighting corporate vested interests, better funding for~~  
280 ~~research, development and education, promotion of entrepreneurship, and in particular social~~  
281 ~~entrepreneurship, good industrial relations, and workplace democracy and: fighting corporate vested~~  
282 ~~interests. These must all be elements of our effort. We want to strengthen trade unions and the right~~  
283 ~~of male and female workers to equally participate in decision-making processes. Trade policy should~~  
284 ~~support a sustainable industrial renaissance in Europe and show respect and solidarity for our global~~  
285 ~~partners. This Green offensive will create many good new jobs in a variety of industries. It will also~~  
286 ~~enhance future competitiveness. Industry should become a key partner in this innovation-oriented~~  
287 ~~Green transformation. Eco-design rules, public procurement, state aid rules, private investment,~~  
288 ~~promoting small and medium sized enterprises and fighting corporate vested interests, better funding~~  
289 ~~for research, development and education, promotion of entrepreneurship, good industrial relations~~  
290 ~~and workplace democracy. These must all be elements of our effort. We want to strengthen workers~~  
291 ~~unions and the right of workers to participate in decision-making processes. Trade policy should~~  
292 ~~support a sustainable industrial renaissance in Europe. One project of particular relevance in this~~  
293 ~~context will be creating a European Renewable Energy Community to help break our addiction to~~  
294 ~~fossil fuels.~~



295 ONE PLANET, OUR HOME!

296 GETTING SERIOUS ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE ECOLOGICAL CRISIS

297 Climate change and biodiversity loss ~~are not merely environmental problems but~~ pose threats to  
298 societies across the world. ~~The ecological crisis has been overshadowed by the current economic~~  
299 ~~crisis but the situation is becoming more and more acute, with the potential collapse of ecosystems~~  
300 ~~putting our way of life at risk. In 2013 we consumed more of the Earth's resources by August than~~  
301 ~~can be renewed in a year. The ecological crisis has been taken a back-seat as a result of the economic~~  
302 ~~crisis but the situation is more acute and urgent solutions are needed.~~

303 There is no longer any doubt about ~~man's~~mankind's role in causing climate change and the ~~enormous~~  
304 ~~economic and moral catastrophic~~ consequences of inaction. The planet is close to tipping point and  
305 without a ~~dramatic~~radical change in our energy consumption and production patterns damaging  
306 climate change can become irreversible. However, ~~there are solutions which the solutions are already~~  
307 ~~at hand and~~ will deliver massive economic, social and health benefits.

308 EUROPEAN CLIMATE **AND ENERGY** LAW

309 We want ~~comprehensive a~~EUropean climate ~~and energy~~ legislation ~~aw~~ consistent with our fair share  
310 ~~of global efforts~~, built ~~on legally binding emission on existing national and regional initiatives, which~~  
311 ~~means a strong judicial form with both~~ targets and sanctions to ensure that the climate goals will be  
312 met. This will ~~create the incentives towards~~ commit ~~Europe the EU to a path of~~sustainable economic  
313 transformation and ~~away~~averting ~~dangerous from devastating~~ climate change. ~~With T~~the UN climate  
314 summit in Paris in 2015 (COP 21) ~~hoping~~must ~~to~~ deliver a binding global agreement, the clock is  
315 ticking and the EU ~~together with member states~~ needs to play a leading role ~~in the negotiations to~~  
316 ~~secure binding commitments from all negotiating parties. This means increasing its existing and~~  
317 ~~outdated greenhouse gas emissions reduction target for 2020 from 20% to 30%, it also means setting~~  
318 ~~a target to reduce these climate-damaging emissions by [60%] [at least 55%] from their 1990 levels by~~  
319 ~~2030. This also means increasing its existing and outdated greenhouse gas emissions reduction target~~  
320 ~~for 2020 from 20% to 30% from their 1990 levels, and setting a target to further reduce these~~  
321 ~~emissions by [VOTE: [60%] [at least 55%] [at least 50%] ]from their 1990 levels by 2030.~~ Reviving the  
322 EU's emissions trading scheme is essential to this and means setting an adequate price for CO<sup>2</sup>  
323 emissions. ~~Public institutions, businesses, and especially the financial sector, must be encouraged to~~  
324 ~~divest from climate-damaging assets.~~ Public subsidies for and investments in fossil fuels should be  
325 ended. We want to invest in European energy networks connecting renewable energy production in  
326 different parts of the continent, increasing energy security and cutting costs.

327 ~~A coherent energy policy, based on energy savings and efficiency and renewable energy is the only~~  
328 ~~way to achieve a nearly full renewables-based economy by 2050. Therefore, further binding targets on~~  
329 ~~energy efficiency and renewable energy are essential. Our energy consumption must be reduced by~~  
330 ~~40% over the next 15 years and, at the same time, renewable energy, excluding agrofuels, must be~~  
331 ~~boosted to ensure 45% of our energy consumption by 2030. This is not only essential for limiting~~  
332 ~~global warming below 2° C, it also makes economic sense, as it stimulates economic activity, creates~~  
333 ~~jobs and reduces Europe's dependence on costly imports of fuels. This must be backed by a coherent~~  
334 ~~energy policy, prioritising energy savings and efficiency and renewable energy. This is not only essential~~  
335 ~~for the EU's energy security and climate change goals, it also makes broader economic sense, as it~~  
336 ~~stimulates economic activity, creates jobs and reduces Europe's dependence on costly imports of~~  
337 ~~fossil fuels. Today Europe the EU spends twice as much per year on energy imports than on research~~  
338 ~~and development. We want combined energy savings of 40% over the next 15 years. Building on the~~

339 | ~~success of the EU's 2020 renewable energy target, we want to ensure a target for 45% of energy to~~  
340 | ~~be supplied from renewable sources by 2030.~~

341 | Nuclear power is expensive and risky, ~~increases the risk of spreading of nuclear weapons~~ and has no  
342 | part to play. We will continue to say "Nuclear? No thanks!" and renew our engagement to phase-out  
343 | nuclear energy in Europe while making sure this does not increase carbon emissions. We must shut  
344 | down the most risky power plants immediately, end ~~direct and indirect state~~ subsidies and insist that  
345 | existing operators bear full liability ~~for in case of any accident, in particular for~~ the fall-out from  
346 | nuclear accidents.

#### 347 | SUSTAINABILITY IS THE KEY

348 | Sustainability must be put at the heart of every major economic decision. We want to see  
349 | environmental and biodiversity protection and sustainable development given international priority.  
350 | We propose the creation of a World Environment Organisation by combining and expanding the role  
351 | of the different disjointed agencies that already exist within the United Nations. We cannot measure  
352 | the quality of life only in coarse monetary terms: we need new indicators to complement and extend  
353 | Gross Domestic Product as a measure of sustainable prosperity and well-being.

354 | ~~The diverse natural environment in Europe is beautiful and has a value beyond money. The Greens~~  
355 | ~~know that sustainable development means managing our natural resources wisely so that our children~~  
356 | ~~and our children's children will still have a viable planet to live on. We believe that you know this too~~  
357 | ~~and share our worries that we are living way beyond our means by consuming natural resources at a~~  
358 | ~~rate at which they cannot be renewed, as well as polluting our air, soil and water. We want to~~  
359 | ~~encourage resource re-use, repair and recycling in place of the designed-for-the-dump approach. The~~  
360 | ~~ultimate goal should be a closed-loop society, where waste from one sector becomes an input for~~  
361 | ~~another. We cannot measure the quality of life only in coarse monetary terms: we need new~~  
362 | ~~indicators to complement and extend Gross Domestic Product as a measure of sustainable~~  
363 | ~~prosperity and well-being.~~

364 | The Greens know that sustainable development means managing our natural resources wisely so that  
365 | our children and our children's children will still have a viable planet to live on. We believe that you  
366 | share our worries that we are living way beyond our means by consuming natural resources at a rate  
367 | at which they cannot be renewed, as well as polluting our air, soil and water with hazardous  
368 | substances. We want to reduce our ecological footprint and our resource consumption and ensure  
369 | that goods are fit for re-use, repair and recycling in place of the designed-for-the-dump approach. The  
370 | ultimate goal should be a closed-loop society, where non-hazardous waste from one sector becomes  
371 | an input for another.

#### 372 | PRIORITY FOR GREEN TRANSPORT

373 | Aviation and road transport are major sources of greenhouse gases, air pollution and noise. The  
374 | current volume of Using fossil fuels used for the transport sector not only has a strong negative  
375 | impact on public health and the environment but also makes the EU dependent on energy imports  
376 | and exposed to rising prices. We need to shift to safer ore sustainable and less environmentally-  
377 | damaging modes like sustainable waterways, cycling, public-collective transport and rail. Special  
378 | emphasis needs to be put on fair competition between different modes of transport. A European  
379 | railway network should therefore close missing links on both regional and long-distance connections,  
380 | in a way that urban and regional agglomerations can easily be reached. eTrans-European Transport  
381 | Networks must prioritise Existing cross-border rail connections must be prioritised before roads and  
382 | aviation, especially for the movement of goods. Improving the energy efficiency of cars helps cutting  
383 | the fuel bills of European citizens and improves air quality. We also want to spur innovation by making

384 | electric [bicycles, tramways and trains, electric cars, all bases on renewable sources](#), a more attractive  
385 | options.

## 386 | PROTECT HEALTH AND SAFETY

387 | [We support measures to reduce air pollution – a major cause of premature death.](#)

388 | [We are pushing hard for better controls of electronic and hazardous waste, drug and pesticide](#)  
389 | [residues discharged into our water systems and the use of nanotechnology in cosmetics, medicines,](#)  
390 | [food and biocides, as well as for reduced exposure to substances that negatively affect our hormonal](#)  
391 | [system. Together with Civil Society Organizations, Greens have successfully driven the environmental](#)  
392 | [and public health agendas in the European Parliament, shaping for instance safety rules for pesticides](#)  
393 | [and for chemicals. The Greens are pushing hard for better controls of electronic and hazardous](#)  
394 | [waste, drug and pesticide residues discharged into our water systems and the use of nanotechnology](#)  
395 | [in cosmetics, medicines, food and biocides.](#)

396 | We will continue our campaign against the dangerous and damaging practice of shale gas and oil  
397 | extraction by 'fracking', which can contaminate our water supplies and our environment and is of  
398 | dubious short-term economic benefit. We want to establish fracking-free regions throughout Europe  
399 | the EU following the successful GMO-free model. other unconventional fossil fuel extraction and call  
400 | for an immediate ban on hydraulic fracturing ("fracking"). In the interim we will work to establish  
401 | fracking-free regions throughout Europe following the successful GMO-free model. Fracking  
402 | contaminates our water supplies and our environment with chemicals used in fracking fluids.  
403 | Methane leakages during extraction of shale gas add to climate change. Moreover, the economic  
404 | benefits have been grossly exaggerated, with production rates dropping rapidly after the first year of  
405 | fracking, causing boom-and-bust economies in local communities. It is time to ban shale gas!

## 406 | FOOD NOT FUEL

407 | Fuel made from food crops is not a sustainable solution to the climate, energy and poverty crisis.  
408 | Feeding crops into cars has forced up food prices, resulting in land grabbing, rainforest destruction  
409 | and threatens the food security of millions in the developing world: [whilst having a negative climate](#)  
410 | [impact. In particular, biodiversity-rich tropical rainforests are being slashed and burnt to make way for](#)  
411 | [palm oil plantations intended for fuel and food ingredients.](#)

412 | [We will continue to campaign for alternative, renewable, non-food sources of agrofuels for transport](#)  
413 | [- the so called 3rd and 4th generations made from feedstock such as waste and waste gases, woody](#)  
414 | [residues and algae with stringent climate safeguards in place. The real long-term solution however lies](#)  
415 | [in more sustainable transport models and increased fuel efficiency for all vehicles.](#)

416 | We will continue to campaign for alternative, renewable, non-food sources of agro-fuels - the so-  
417 | called 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> generations such as waste, wood residues and algae - with stringent climate  
418 | safeguards in place. The long-term solution lies in more sustainable transport models and increased  
419 | fuel efficiency for all vehicles.

## 420 | BETTER FOOD, BETTER LIVES

421 | Our food chain is malfunctioning. Industrial agriculture, based on pesticides, monocultures and [an](#)  
422 | [overuse of](#) antibiotics, is thriving at the expense of our health, the environment and increasing animal  
423 | suffering. Recurring food scandals have made consumers justifiably insecure about what we are eating  
424 | and where it comes from. The diversion of food crops to fuel, combined with financial speculation on  
425 | essential food commodities, has led to increased food prices and hunger [worldwide especially in](#)  
426 | [developing countries](#). On the other hand we are consuming more and more junk food, heavy with

427 added salts and sugars, resulting in rising levels of obesity in Europe and driving up the rate of heart  
428 disease, diabetes and cancer. ~~We want a food revolution to change things.~~

429 The Greens want to promote sustainable, healthy, tasty, diverse and ethical food, not standardised,  
430 tasteless food designed simply to look good on supermarket shelves. This means encouraging local  
431 production chains, organic farming and fair trade products from developing countries. We have  
432 succeeded in fighting several misleading practices, and in improving country of origin and nano-  
433 ingredients labelling. We will continue to demand improved transparency in food labelling. With  
434 Europe throwing away 90 million tons of food annually, we also want action to cut down food waste.  
435 We launched a food revolution, increasing public awareness, personal engagement and participative  
436 democracy in determining and improving food policies throughout Europe. We call for a self-  
437 sustaining, nurturing system that increases fertility, diversity and prosperity rather than destroying  
438 natural and social capital in a race to the bottom.

### 439 GREENING AGRICULTURE

440 We need to make our farming climate-smart, sustainable, fair- and ethically sound. We need resilient,  
441 biologically diverse, healthy and robust agro-ecosystems that not only adapt to climate change but  
442 mitigate it. The European Parliament now has equal responsibility for the EU's Common Agricultural  
443 Policy, ~~but the recent reform of the CAP was a missed opportunity for creating a sustainable, non-~~  
444 ~~polluting model of agriculture and rural development.~~ We need a system which allows for a much  
445 fairer distribution of public funds, including more support for small farmers, for local production and  
446 sale, which brings farmers closer to consumers, and for organic productionfarming and for  
447 conventional farmers who want to green their production methods. Farmers deserve a decent price  
448 for their produce and we need to stop corporate buyers driving farm-gate prices below sustainable  
449 levels. We need to increase soil fertility, drastically cut the inputs of pesticides and synthetic  
450 fertilizers -and eliminate harmful export subsidies. We need to move away from intensive industrial  
451 farming.

452 We oppose the further privatisation of seeds and plant material in EU rules on seeds. We will  
453 continue our campaign for fair and unrestricted access to plant breeding material and against the  
454 patenting of plants and animals. We will keep fighting against the corporate control of the seed  
455 industry which makes farmers reliant on seed designed specifically for use with chemical fertilisers  
456 and pesticides, instead of allowing them to save and breed their own seed and adapt their crops to  
457 changing local conditions.

458 Biodiversity loss and excessive pesticide use has meant habitat destruction and led to a massive  
459 decline in bee and other insect populations, ,which disturbs natural pollination of many plants and  
460 crops. If we want healthy local fruit and vegetables, we must 'give bees a chance'.

### 461 NO TO GMOs

462 ~~The Greens~~We have been consistent in our opposition to genetically-modified organisms in food and  
463 farming and in our support for a GMO-free Europe. ~~We Greens~~ will continue to lead the fight against  
464 cultivating GMOs here, for GM-free food and for a ban on importing GMOs for animal feedstuffs. We  
465 must insist on the right to continue to make our own rules: and impose mandatory GMO labeling.  
466 European consumers have the right to know what their food is composed of and where it comes  
467 from. Any research on GMOs should be limited to impact assessments including gene flow and cross-  
468 contamination.

469 ~~If we want healthy local fruit and vegetables, we must 'give bees a chance'.meaning the natural chain of~~  
470 ~~pollination is damaged. ,which disturbs natural pollination of many plants and crops. Biodiversity loss~~

471 | ~~and excessive pesticide use has meant habitat destruction and led to a massive decline in bee and~~  
472 | ~~other insect populations,~~

#### 473 | MORE FISH IN THE SEAS

474 | The Greens have played a lead role in pushing for a more sustainable Common Fisheries Policy. The  
475 | policy of throwing unwanted fish back into the sea was a massive waste of food and income and will  
476 | now be curtailed. Fish stocks will be better managed and the capacity of the fishing fleet better  
477 | regulated. You will now be able to see not only where your fish came from but how it was caught.  
478 | Much remains to be done to implement these reforms and ensure loopholes are not exploited. We  
479 | will continue to fight for better controls over intensive fish farming, which is highly polluting and for  
480 | fairer treatment for small-scale, local fishing inside and outside Europe.

#### 481 | ANIMAL PROTECTION

482 | We are well known for our commitment to animal protection and our MEPs are at the forefront of  
483 | moves in the European Parliament to provide ever increasing standards of well-being for all sentient  
484 | beings. ~~The Greens have led the fight against animal testing under EU legislation and will continue to~~  
485 | ~~do so.~~ We are well known for our commitment to animal protection. Our MEPs are at the forefront  
486 | of moves in the European Parliament to provide ever increasing standards of well-being for all  
487 | sentient beings.

488 | We need urgently to move away from factory farming, with its horrendous record on animal welfare  
489 | and its intensive use of antibiotics. We have led the fight against excessive animal testing ~~not related~~  
490 | ~~to health issues~~ and will continue to do so. We want to ~~dramatically~~ significantly reduce animal  
491 | transport times and to end live animal exports. At international level, the EU must be more energetic  
492 | in combatting wildlife trafficking, protecting marine mammals and defending its ban on seal products.  
493 | We support a ban on fur farming.

## 494 EUROPE IN THE WORLD

495 The EU has often been a reluctant player in global politics, reacting more than acting, and facing many  
496 difficulties in defining common position. We want the EU to establish a value-driven common foreign  
497 policy and to play an important international role, to address the structural causes of poverty,  
498 promoting global justice and solidarity, peace, and the defense of global common goods. In today's  
499 context of shifting global power, rising global inequalities and questioning of the universality of human  
500 rights, passivity is however not an option. We want the EU to have a common voice on foreign and  
501 security policy. We have had positive signs in this direction on the issue of Kosovo-Serbia, or Iran. The  
502 EU should pursue strong and fair partnerships with countries of the global south, aiming at reducing  
503 inequalities within and between societies through development cooperation. ~~The EU and its partners~~  
504 ~~need to work together to find answers to problems like climate change, nuclear proliferation and~~  
505 ~~regional conflicts around the world.~~ The EU and its partners need to work together to find common  
506 answers to problems like climate change, nuclear proliferation and regional conflicts around the  
507 world, or the unacceptable pillage of natural resources in many countries, particularly in the global  
508 south. That cooperation will not be credible if it is not democratic, accountable, transparent, and  
509 based on universal principles. We want the EU to support a multilateral global governance,  
510 strengthening and reforming the role of the UN, the rule of law and the responsibility to protect.  
511 Priority must always be given to civilian conflict management. Over the last years energy security has  
512 become one of the main priorities of EU foreign policy. The over-reliance on gas and oil makes the  
513 EU "corruptible" and is playing into the hands of those autocrats that control European hydrocarbons  
514 supplies. We must cut off this dangerous and toxic link.

## 515 UPHOLDING HUMAN RIGHTS AND POVERTY ERADICATION

516 The EU institutions should mainstream human rights in its external policies, including trade. ~~Following~~  
517 ~~Green pressure, an EU Special Representative for Human Rights was appointed to enhance the~~  
518 ~~visibility of the European Union's human rights policy.~~ We must live up to our promises on human  
519 rights when we are asked to help with disaster relief. This includes a strong commitment to the basic  
520 humanitarian principles: humanity, impartiality, independence and neutrality. The EU must become  
521 more efficient, more vocal in the defence of the rule of law, freedom and human rights, including  
522 socio-economic, environmental rights within and outside its borders. Following Green pressure, an  
523 EU Special Representative for Human Rights was appointed to enhance the visibility of the European  
524 Union's human rights policy. The EU and the Member States must come to terms with their  
525 complicity in secret detention, rendition flights and extrajudicial killings. The "war on terror" must be  
526 formally ended. All member states should ratify the amendments to the ICC statutes, which would  
527 allow to prosecute state leaders who start wars of aggression. On the Millennium Development  
528 Goals (MDG), which include the fight against poverty, hunger, environmental destruction and  
529 exclusion of women, ~~Europe~~ the EU has not done enough. That must be a motivation to support  
530 strong new sustainability goals. It entails the integration of the MDG review and the Sustainable  
531 Development Goals process, which emerged from the Rio+20 Conference, into a single  
532 comprehensive framework and set of goals to eradicate poverty and promote sustainable  
533 development after 2015. We urge member states to fulfil their commitments to spending 0.7 % of  
534 GDP on development cooperation, giving 0.7 % of GDP in development aid. ~~The EU~~ EU institutions  
535 should mainstream human rights in its external policies, including trade.

## 536 DOMESTIC SECURITY POLICY

537 There is a need to improve police and judicial cooperation, especially tackling terrorism organized  
538 crime, including mafia association, environmental and economic crime. In doing so we should however

539 prevent the stigmatization of migrants and minorities. Checks and balances need to be strengthened  
540 so that law enforcement and intelligence services stick to the necessary and proportionate action  
541 required of them to keep us all safe. The Greens argue there should be full accountability for the  
542 human rights violations committed in the CIA rendition program.

#### 543 WORKING FOR PEACE POLICY

544 ~~The EU was created to ensure peace after devastating wars. Today it must contribute to ensuring~~  
545 ~~peace not only in Europe but throughout the world. Greens want to promote non-violence and a~~  
546 ~~culture of cooperation. The EU has played and can continue to play an important role in conflict~~  
547 ~~prevention, civil conflict-resolution, peacebuilding and peacekeeping. It must help developing pillars of~~  
548 ~~peace by promoting freedom and eradicating poverty and by increasing mutual understanding~~  
549 ~~between cultures. Greens have won a much larger EU budget to be spend on peace-building through~~  
550 ~~the Instrument for Stability and Peace. We have also supported the idea of an EU Peace Corps and~~  
551 ~~the creation of a Peace Institute. We are opposed to financing military research from the EU budget~~  
552 ~~to the development of European drones and to Europe being a nuclear warehouse. We will continue~~  
553 ~~to fight for nuclear disarmament (Global Zero).~~

554 European ~~The EU's arms trade with the Middle and the Far East is exporting insecurity to these~~  
555 ~~regions. Greens want to cut down this trade and prevent such exports including surveillance~~  
556 ~~technology where they could be used against freedom movements and civic protest. This year we are~~  
557 ~~commemorating the 100 years of the beginning of World War I. The EU was created to ensure peace~~  
558 ~~after devastating wars replacing confrontation with cooperation. Greens want the EU to actively~~  
559 ~~promote non-violence and a culture of dialogue, mediation, reconciliation and cooperation. The EU~~  
560 ~~has played and can continue to play an important role in conflict prevention, civil conflict-resolution,~~  
561 ~~disarmament, arms control, peacebuilding and peacekeeping. The EU should also strengthen its~~  
562 ~~humanitarian role for example when it comes to the deployment of temporary hospitals to help~~  
563 ~~alleviating civilian suffering in situations like civil wars. The concept of human security must lie at the~~  
564 ~~heart of the EU's external action. We also believe that the EU should help the UN to be empowered~~  
565 ~~with more efficient tools of de-escalation and - if needed - peace enforcement. We consider the~~  
566 ~~adoption of the 'Responsibility to Protect' concept by the UN as progress, but the EU needs to make~~  
567 ~~its contribution to further refine and tighten the rules for its application. It is now important to~~  
568 ~~strengthen parliamentary control of EU military operations by giving the European Parliament a role~~  
569 ~~in decision-making. Thanks to the Greens, a much larger part of the EU budget is to be spend on~~  
570 ~~conflict prevention through the Instrument for Stability and Peace. We have also supported the idea~~  
571 ~~of an EU Peace Corps and the creation of an EU Institute for Peace. We are opposed to financing~~  
572 ~~military research from the EU budget, such as tofor the development of European drones and to~~  
573 ~~Europe being a nuclear warehouse.~~

574 We will continue to fight for nuclear disarmament both globally and in Europe and for concrete steps  
575 towards a Middle East Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Zone. Greens also want to ban weapons  
576 such as depleted uranium ammunition and white phosphorus. Investments by European banks,  
577 pension funds, insurance companies and others in companies which produce landmines, cluster  
578 munitions have to be banned too.

579 European trade in arms, including surveillance technology, is exporting insecurity to regions such as  
580 the Middle and Far East. Greens want to cut down this trade and prevent arms exports where they  
581 could be used against freedom movements and civic protest.

582 Extra-territorial targeted killings outside of armed conflict by drones or other means have broken the  
583 barriers of established rule of law. Greens call on the EU to ban such acts as crimes under  
584 international humanitarian and human rights law, and to engage with UN members to achieve a  
585 worldwide ban, as well as a ban on the use of fully automatized lethal weapons' systems.

## 586 FIGHTING FOR FAIR ASYLUM AND MIGRATION POLICIES

587 UNHCR estimate that the world as of 2013 has a population of people displaced of almost  
588 40.000.000 of which at almost half are refugees outside their own country. Mankind has always been  
589 migrating and will continue to do so. Although Still the UN estimates that 200.000 of these UN  
590 refugees urgently need to be resettled every year, but only half of them find a new home; and more  
591 worryingly only 4.500 are resettled in Europe the European Union (80.000 per year in the USA).  
592 Greens oppose the restrictive system that the EU and its member states now have imposed.  
593 Thousands of people die on Europe's external border every year, because of ever stricter controls at  
594 the external borders and because the means of legal entry into the EU remain limited. The EU has a  
595 duty to ensure that these people can seek protection. Thousands of people die on Europe's external  
596 borders every year and we have a duty to ensure that these people get protection. The EU's  
597 FRONTEX agency must be forced to live up to human rights standards under EU and international  
598 law: we need a revision of its the FRONTEX whole mandate to include "rescues at sea". We demand a  
599 fundamental revision of the Dublin III regulation so that asylum seekers are able to choose in which  
600 country they want to apply for asylum. Therefore then member states need to adopt a shared  
601 responsibility. show solidarity and adopt a shared responsibility. Mankind has always been migrating  
602 and will continue to do so. Greens oppose the restrictive system that the EU and its member states  
603 now have imposed. Instead of closing itself off, the EU needs to combine its refugee and immigration  
604 policy with its development, foreign trade and human rights policy. We need to create more legal and  
605 safe routes to the EU and humanitarian visas should be implemented. We suggest a pact with  
606 countries on the Mediterranean Sea to avoid more human dramas and deaths. We suggest a pact  
607 with these goals with countries on the Mediterranean Sea to avoid more human dramas and deaths.

608 We Greens have been successful in the our fight for the creation of an EU Joint Resettlement  
609 Programme as well as for funds for emergency resettlement of refugees that are facing a humanitarian  
610 crisis situation. EU member states must do everything they can to make full use of these funds and  
611 show solidarity, not only amongst each other but also with troubled neighbouring regions, such as  
612 those living in camps in Syria: there is money available for resettlement of refugees in the EU and EU  
613 member states must use it and help the United Nations to resettle as many refugees as possible, even  
614 if temporarily.

## 615 TAKING THE LEAD ON CLIMATE CHANGE

616 For many years the European Union has played a positive role in international climate negotiations,  
617 but recently, this role has vanished dwinded. It is one of our prime Green foreign policy concerns to  
618 make Europe once again a leading actor against climate change and environmental degradation.  
619 Climate change already causes damage and suffering all over the world. Many people have to leave  
620 their land and become climate refugees, because of desertification, soil erosion, heavy rainfalls or  
621 rising sea levels. We want to see the concept of climate refugees incorporated into international law.  
622 The EU must therefore play a leading role on climate migration in international institutions and at  
623 home. It must enhance its support for climate mitigation and adaptation. Climate financing plays a key  
624 role for developing countries and we Greens will hold the EU to its promises and its responsibility.  
625 Climate financing must be new and additional to existing development aid. We advice mainstreaming  
626 environment into development projects to promote an effective climate change mitigation and



627 | [adaption strategy.](#)

628 | [PURSUING A COHERENT ENLARGEMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICY AND](#)  
629 | [ENLARGEMENT](#)

630 | ~~Europe~~ [The European Union](#) has to play a vital role in its direct neighbourhood in order to  
631 | strengthen stability and democracy. [Greens support an EU accession perspective for all the countries](#)  
632 | [of the Western Balkans and will not exclude any European country from possible future accession,](#)  
633 | [provided they fulfill the membership criteria. Greens want to speed up fair and credible negotiations](#)  
634 | [with Turkey. This is why We continue to support](#) ~~we~~ [Greens stick to](#) the policy of EU enlargement  
635 | and want to strengthen the Eastern Partnership and specifically our engagement towards countries  
636 | like Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova. This means asserting itself as a principled and honest partner with  
637 | our neighbours. The EU should work with civil society, granting asylum and support to defenders of  
638 | freedom and democracy and granting scholarships to the youth of our neighbouring countries.  
639 | We want the EU to focus on the transformation of the neighbourhood in the Mediterranean and in  
640 | Eastern Europe. [We want the EU to effectively support reform efforts in these countries. We](#)  
641 | [support an EU accession perspective for all the countries of the Western Balkans and will not exclude](#)  
642 | [any European country from possible future accession, provided they fulfil the membership criteria. We](#)  
643 | [want to speed up fair and credible negotiations with Turkey.](#) Moreover, the EU should strengthen its  
644 | partnerships with other existing regional organisations from Africa, ~~South-East~~ Asia and Latin  
645 | America.

646 | [FOR A FAIR TRADE POLICY INTERNATIONAL TRADE RELATIONS](#)

647 | In trade the EU is a global power. The European Parliament plays an important role in Europe's trade  
648 | relations, because it can veto trade agreements, as it did for ACTA. ~~But we need more transparency~~  
649 | ~~for the European Parliament during trade negotiations.~~ [But we need more transparency during trade](#)  
650 | [negotiations and an effective cooperation between the European and national Parliaments on these](#)  
651 | [issues.](#) ~~We~~ Greens are in favour of a multilateral trade order. ~~Trade must be fair.~~ Trade should  
652 | support, not hinder, the development of poorer countries and the transition to a green, social,  
653 | equitable and democratic development model. This includes opening EU markets for less developed  
654 | countries, to substantially reform the WTO to make it more development-friendly and to subordinate  
655 | trade rules to human rights, social and environmental rights. [Trade must be fair and it should not](#)  
656 | [undermine the EU's social model.](#)

657 | Presently, many bilateral EU trade deals are being negotiated, in particular the Transatlantic Trade and  
658 | Investment Partnership (TTIP) agreement with the United States. Greens contest the lack of  
659 | transparency of these negotiations, where important democratic choices are on the agenda. Greens  
660 | not only defend our environmental, health, agriculture and food, consumer and labour standards,  
661 | public interests and data protection but also the possibility to strengthen them to implement the  
662 | Green New Deal. We oppose biotech [and toxic financial](#) products marketed in the US being  
663 | automatically approved for the EU. We draw clear red lines against any weakening of EU legislation.  
664 | We refuse [through the inclusion of international investor-state dispute settlement in trade](#)  
665 | [agreements,](#) to allow private companies to sue democratically elected governments in order to  
666 | protect corporate interests against social or environmental reforms. ~~We will mobilize against any~~  
667 | ~~trade agreement that does not honour these principles~~ [We mobilize against the current TTIP agenda](#)  
668 | [because it does not honour these principles.](#)

## 669 FOR A MORE VIGOROUS DEMOCRACY

670 More democracy, not less, is the answer to the crisis. We believe that a shift towards more citizen's  
671 participation, accountability and transparency is crucial to gain legitimacy for future European  
672 cooperation. This means that we the Greens are working for increased transparency in the entire  
673 decision-making process from the Commission via other EU-institutions to member state  
674 governments. ~~But this also means more:~~ Even more importantly we work for the right of citizens to  
675 determine the future of the Union by their choices in throughout the law-making ~~and policy-making~~  
676 processes.

## 677 WITHOUT GENDER EQUALITY THERE IS NO DEMOCRACY

678 The Greens believe that the EU's response must be to mainstream gender issues at all policy levels.  
679 Gender democracy means that women are part of the public life of our societies and take decisions  
680 in institutions and companies in equal footing than men. We support the Commission in its work on  
681 legally binding quotas for women in corporate boardrooms. At the present pace it will take more than  
682 50 years until 40% of all boardroom members of European companies would be women. We demand  
683 a quota to achieve this objective until 2020. For reaching equality, we believe that the EU should  
684 adopt a more comprehensive policy approach against gender-based violence, including EU legislation  
685 in the form of a directive proposing measures to address violence against women (policy, prevention,  
686 protection, prosecution, provision and partnership). According to the EU Human rights convention all  
687 EU Member States to define rape and sexual violence against women within marriage and intimate  
688 informal relationships as a crime.

## 689 CITIZENS AS EUROPEAN DECISION MAKERS

690 We want to strengthen your opportunities to influence decisions. We want to work for more  
691 participatory democracy. Greens helped introduce the European Citizens' Initiative. It is time to take  
692 the next step. We want to make it more substantiated efficient and citizen-friendly. ~~by, f~~ For example by,  
693 giving citizens the opportunity to put forward suggestions on all questions that the European  
694 Commission can deal with. In order to strengthen democracy we also want to create a legal basis for  
695 EU-wide referenda.

696 Where citizens are being deprived of their rights in an EU member state without remedy from that  
697 country's judicial system they should have the possibility of taking collective legal action in the EU's  
698 Court of Justice.

## 699 STRENGTHEN THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTS

700 By choosing the Members of the European Parliament, citizens have a say on how many crucial issues  
701 of our times will be tackled, from climate change to bank regulation, from the refugees' crises policy  
702 on refugees to youth unemployment. ~~We want to give the European Parliament also a stronger role~~  
703 ~~in EU crisis management and economic policy making. We want to give the European Parliament a~~  
704 stronger role, particularly in EU crisis management and economic policy making. We want to lower  
705 the voting age to 16 for the European Parliament and to additionally the option of introducing pan-  
706 European lists of with transnational candidates.

707 The growing influence handed to the European Parliament by the Lisbon Treaty must be exercised  
708 responsibly and not undermined by lobby interests. In the Council of the European Union, as well,  
709 more transparency and accountability is needed, for example by publishing all voting results.

710 To get a broader and more open debate it is necessary that the national parliaments take more  
711 responsibility by imposing better control over governments' actions in European affairs. We also want

712 to extend the national parliaments' opportunities to react when the EU exceeds its authority by not  
713 following the rules on subsidiarity. National parliaments should also have more avenues of  
714 cooperation with the European Parliament.

#### 715 FIGHT CORRUPTION AND FRAUD

716 The EU needs a stronger anticorruption policy and more effective instruments against organized  
717 crime. Reduced corruption is necessary to strengthen democracy and the rule of law, but also to  
718 strengthen competitiveness in the European economy. Corrupt behavior by EU officials or  
719 parliamentarians in their relations with lobbyists must be met with very strong reactions. Big business  
720 is still influencing the commission too much. Almost 80% of all stakeholders appointed by the  
721 commission represent corporate interests, despite commitment to change. A regulation must be  
722 enforced also to tackle the problem of "revolving doors" where high bureaucrats and politicians in  
723 European institutions join private organizations which they were responsible for regulating. We want  
724 to safeguard democracy from corruption by ~~demandingmaking~~ transparency about the financing of  
725 political parties, candidates and election campaigns fully transparent. The EU needs to take the lead in  
726 this field by making robust rules safeguarding the transparency of the financing of national political  
727 parties and candidates contesting an election for the European Parliament. We want to provide the  
728 Court of Justice of the EU and the European Court of Auditors with stronger tools to control the  
729 way in which the EU resources are spent and to act against corruption both within the EU  
730 institutions and in the case of serious problems within the member states.

#### 731 MORE OWN RESOURCES FOR THE EU BUDGET

732 The EU budget must be increased and must principally be based on a system of own resources, for  
733 instance a carbon and/or energy tax, to reduce the dependency on national contributions. The  
734 common interest is too often overlooked in negotiations between governments as it was in the 2013  
735 budget negotiations that failed to come up with effective policies to fight against the crisis. The EU-  
736 budget must be based much more strongly on a system of own resources to reduce the dependency  
737 on national contributions. The common interest is too often overlooked in negotiations between  
738 governments. Greens have been fighting a tough fight for greater accountability and transparency in  
739 budget-making. We are also suggesting more participation too: citizens could be given the right to sign  
740 up for pilot-project initiatives to be approved by the Budget committee of the European Parliament.

#### 741 A DIGITAL BILL OF RIGHTS

742 The Greens in the European Parliament are at the forefront of the fight for digital rights. We helped  
743 stop the ~~ACTA-treaty~~ Anti-Counterfeit Trade Agreement (ACTA) and we are fighting for a strong  
744 protection of personal data, for the right to privacy and for strict net neutrality. Now it is time to  
745 defend and protect both the European citizens and the internet from pervasive corporate and  
746 governmental surveillance and to safeguard fundamental rights on the internet. European data-  
747 protection law and strict net neutrality. Now is the right time to go all the way and take civic rights-  
748 into the digital age. Your pPersonal data should belong to youthe person, not to companies or  
749 governments. Your pPrivacy must be respected. The data retention law, which obliges telecom  
750 providers to store data about whom youcitizens communicate with, is a serious mistake and must be  
751 abolished. Governments have to abide by their own laws. Whilst national security is important,  
752 personal freedoms and liberties must not be overridden. Governments must ensure that national  
753 security agencies work for all citizens to secure freedom and liberty for everybody.

#### 754 UPHOLD THE RULE OF LAW

755 The Union is founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the  
756 rule of law and respect for human rights. Greens do not compromise on human rights. Pluralism,  
757 nondiscrimination, tolerance, justice, solidarity and equality between women and men must prevail.  
758 There is a great lack of women in EU institutions. ~~Democracy means that women participate on equal~~  
759 ~~terms. In many member states equal rights for LGBT+ citizens are still not guaranteed. We Greens~~  
760 ~~will push for effective anti-discrimination policies to overcome such injustice. In many member states~~  
761 ~~equal rights for LGBT+ citizens are still not guaranteed; people with disabilities are still too often~~  
762 ~~treated as second-class citizens. Discrimination of people because of age, race, ethnic origin, religion~~  
763 ~~or belief is still a reality. Islamophobia, homophobia and anti-semitism are growing. Greens will push~~  
764 ~~for effective anti-discrimination policies to overcome such injustice and are long-standing advocates of~~  
765 ~~the extension of the anti-discrimination Directives to become a fully-fledged Equalities Directive.~~

766 For our democratic rights to be upheld and recognized, we need to keep the integrity of the rule of  
767 law both at the EU and national level. The EU lacks effective monitoring and sanctioning tools when  
768 there are violations of our values in the member states. This is why we have been pioneers in  
769 demanding the creation of a Copenhagen Commission in accordance with the EU treaties and the  
770 European Convention on Human Rights to make sure that the democratic demands that are put  
771 upon candidate countries when applying to EU accession are not followed by backsliding into  
772 authoritarianism and cronyism once a Member-state is already in the EU. ~~to current limitations~~ ~~The~~  
773 ~~The impressive list of guarantees and protection from~~ the Charter of Fundamental Rights should be  
774 ~~realized better in practice in our everyday life. Sexual and reproductive rights are essential elements~~  
775 ~~of human dignity. We Greens defend the right of self-determination over our own bodies, abrogated~~  
776 ~~so that the impressive list of guarantees and protections for citizens will apply in practice where~~  
777 ~~citizens live.~~

## 778 A GREEN DEMOCRATIC REFORM OF THE EU

779 Democracy is never finished or complete. Climate change and globalization are two challenges that  
780 have to be met by improved common decision-making. European Greens are convinced, that the  
781 current EU institutional setting is not up to what the EU faces. The development of the Eurozone and  
782 the banking union means we need adequate democratic reforms which strengthen the European  
783 Institutions.

784 Our proposals for more democracy, more transparency and more accountability at the EU level  
785 require clear changes in the functioning of the EU. The European Parliament should have the right to  
786 initiate legislation. It needs more legislative co-decision powers while national veto-rights should be  
787 diminished. Some decisions must, on the other hand, be taken much closer to the citizens.

788 Europe cannot just wait for the EU heads of state and government to take limited initiatives that will  
789 only lead to more technocratic control. A most simple example: The European Parliament wants ~~to~~  
790 ~~have a say about its a single~~ seat and to stop the travelling circus between Brussels and Strasbourg.  
791 ~~We~~ Greens share that demand, as do most European citizens. But the European Council just does not  
792 listen.

793 Europe needs a fresh effort towards integration. Therefore we want a new democratic Convention  
794 that will determine the future of European integration, a Convention with strong parliamentary and  
795 civil society participation. Its procedure must be fully transparent and democratic. European citizens  
796 should have a final say through an EU-wide referendum.