



The EGP's 36<sup>th</sup> Council has taken place in the framework of the 6<sup>th</sup> EGP Congress, Copenhagen, Denmark between 2-4 December 2022 ([full programme](#)). It comprises of the following plenary sessions: Presentation of candidates, Membership and Finance reporting on Saturday 3 December, in preparation of the Council voting session on Sunday morning.

## Draft Minutes

Saturday, 3 December 2022

Plenary

### **Presentation of the Candidates for the FAB, Conciliation Panel, and Global Greens & Presentation of URA's application for full membership**

9:00-10:00

#### **Moderators:**

- Benedetta De Marte, EGP Secretary General
- Sibylle Steffan, EGP Committee Member

Benedetta De Marte welcomes the delegates. This session will start with a presentation of the 14 candidates for the EGP Bodies - the Financial Advisory Board (FAB), the Conciliation Panel (CP), and the EGP representatives in the Global Greens Coordination (GGC) - and will be followed by a presentation by URA as a full membership candidate.

Benedetta gives an explanation about the overlooking of the gender balance for the Amendments Committee election and apologises on behalf of the Committee to the two male candidates and to the Delegates for the mistake. The election is postponed to spring 2023 when a by-election will be organised. Replying to a question from the floor, Benedetta states it is very important for the European Green Party to respect gender quota in its bodies, and to not create precedents for violating the gender balance, hence the Committee's decision to postpone the elections.

Sibylle opens the presentation of the **candidates for FAB**, welcoming the two candidates on stage for 1-minute presentations. Christian Kmiotek from déi gréng (Luxembourg) and Nadia van Huisstede from GroenLinks (Netherlands) introduce themselves, both running for a second term.

No questions are asked from the floor.

Sibylle continues with the five **candidates for the Conciliation Panel**. They present themselves in the following order:

1. Ursula Berner, Die Grünen - Die Grüne Alternative (Austria)
2. Tetiana Bodun, Partija Zelenykh Ukrainy (Ukraine)
3. Ed Davitt, Irish Green Party (Ireland)
4. Frieda Jans, Groen (Belgium)
5. Imane Nadif, GroenLinks (Netherlands)

No questions are asked from the floor.

Sybillie opens the floor for the **candidates for the Global Greens Coordination**. There are seven candidacies, and they are presented in the following order:

1. Zaritsa Dinkova, Green Movement (Bulgaria)
2. Evelyne Huytebroeck, Ecolo (Belgium)
3. Serhii Kurykin, Partija Zelenykh Ukrainy (Ukraine)
4. Eleanor Morrissey, Federation of Young European Greens (UK)
5. Pauline Nales, Europe Ecologie - Les Verts (France)
6. Julius Nebel, Bündnis 90/Die Grünen (Germany)
7. Bodil Valero, Miljöpartiet de Gröna (Sweden)

Sybillie opens the floor for questions. Candidates are asked what they will do to strengthen the overall position of women, about the purpose of the Global Greens and the concrete actions they are proposing, which initiatives they want to undertake for people to enlarge their knowledge about the Global Greens, and what relevant experience the candidates have they can use within the Global Greens.

All candidates answer the questions from the audience. Sibylle thanks all candidates for their presentations.

Benedetta takes the floor to introduce **URA, Green Party from Montenegro, applying for full membership in the EGP**. She reminds the delegates that both the application and Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) report are available on the Council webpages and that  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the allocated votes are required to accept their application in the voting session on Sunday. Benedetta informs the Council that URA will not be present during the voting session the following day (Sunday, 4 December).

Benedetta welcomes Mileta Radovanic, URA's Secretary General, Milena Vuković, member of the Board, and the rest of the delegation to the stage. A video made by URA is displayed. Milena presents the party's candidacy. She explains URA's origins and background in the complex political situation of Montenegro. She introduces the rest of the delegation. Mileta

emphasises the complexity of society in Montenegro. He explains the process of URA's path to EGP's family and labels URA as a Green Party, pushing green politics onto the agenda.

Benedetta opens the floor to the audience.

A Council delegate mentions one of Dritan Abazovic's speeches and questions the deal the Country made with the Serbian Orthodox Church under the lead of the current Government. The delegate also reports on allegations against URA and asks what the Party does to stop Serbian and Russian propaganda and to improve free media in Montenegro. Mileta replies that Dritan's words were twisted and misused. URA is a pro-European Green party that will not oppose EU integration and doesn't have any non-transparent relations with Russia. They want to improve relations with Serbia, as Montenegro's citizens are connected to Serbia. He invites the audience to talk to them bilaterally during the Congress.

Benedetta points out there is no time for other questions and highlights the history of EGP's relations with URA. She invites the delegates to reach out to URA and committee members if they have more questions.

Mileta thanks everyone from EGP and gives special thanks to staff member Vesna Jusup for her cooperation on URA application over the years.

Benedetta thanks all candidates, the URA representatives and the audience for their participation and closes the session.

## Plenary

### **Membership reporting**

18:00 – 18:30

**Speaker:** Benedetta De Marte, EGP Secretary General

Benedetta De Marte presents the activities, ongoing projects, upcoming projects, and changes in membership.

#### 1. Activities

Benedetta mentions EGP held four Committee meetings in the last half year, and a meeting of the Secretary Generals of the Green parties participating in government. Benedetta gives an overview of the various member party activities across Europe, outlines the cooperation with the partners and lists the activities of the EGP networks and working groups.

Lastly, Benedetta goes over the revision of the rule book and statutes. She mentions it was a constructive process within the working group and that she hopes the revisions will be adopted tomorrow.

#### 2. Ongoing projects

Benedetta mentions that the Recovery Tour took place in the Czech Republic, Spain and Estonia, with a total of 350 participants.

EGP also organised three screenings of The Green Screen, a project launched during the pandemic. A total of 1250 viewers participated, and three episodes of the Green Talking Heads podcast have also been recorded.

On the Local Councillors Network she reports more than 900 councillors now participate in the network. More exchanges are taking place on the platform and various webinars have been organised.

Benedetta goes over the Campaign Handbook 2.0, a platform collecting best practices for campaigning.

She then lists the communication activities. She mentions Tilt, a growing platform with 130.000 emailable contacts, and that 120 people participated in the Comms Network Meeting in Brussels. She explains the fundraising efforts, and two new social media channels (TikTok and Mastodon).

### 3. Upcoming projects 2023

In 2023, the Campaign working group will be established, with a first meeting foreseen in the first quarter of the year, as well as a Manifesto working group, to prepare proposals for the autumn Council/Congress 2023.

Benedetta mentions that a series of local events, as well as two missions to Portugal and Hungary are planned for next year.

The rule book changes will be implemented in 2023 as well. In Spring, a Green Leadership Council will take place.

### 4. Membership Changes

Benedetta reminds that EGP has welcomed two new candidate members at the last Council in June: Hållbart Initiativ, Åland Islands, Finland, and Progresīvie, Latvia.

There are no questions from the floor. Benedetta closes the session.

## Plenary

### **Finance reporting**

18:30 – 19:00

**Speaker:** Ute Michel, EGP Treasurer

Ute Michel presents the draft budget 2023, including membership fees and explains that we are transitioning from crisis mode to election campaign, referring to the pandemic and the upcoming 2024 European election. In 2022, we had an expenditure of approximately 7 million EUR (without carry-over, this would have been approximately 5 million EUR). To avoid a sudden drop of activity in 2023 before it goes up again in 2024 and undertake the best possible pre-election campaign, we are on track to achieve a substantial carry-over to 2023 (at least 500.000 EUR in 2023 budget).

The budget is balanced with a total of 5,913 million EUR income and expenditure. The membership fees are at 514.563 EUR of which 3.800 EUR from candidate members, legally categorised as donations.

Ute outlines the different categories of expenditure and income. Ute points out that EGP is provisioning 900.000 EUR for the 2023 campaign, of which 500.000 EUR staff and 400.000 EUR activities. The 2023/24 campaign budget will be presented for adoption at the Council/Congress in 2023.

Ute mentions that it is extremely difficult to plan for 2024, for the following reasons:

- The recast of Regulation 1141/2014 is in trialogue right now; structural financial issues, such as the percentage of own resources required and funds from non-EU countries, are controversial.
- The funding details for 2024 are unknown (in 2019 the grant was considerably increased).
- We are transitioning from huge carry-over budgets.

Ute hopes that the outcome of the recast 1141 trialogue process and an indication of the 2024 grant will be known in the next months.

Ute mentions that there were no amendments submitted to the financial documents to be voted on. Hence, the Committee proposes to the 36th EGP Council meeting in Copenhagen to adopt the draft total budget 2023 of 5.913.600 EUR (5.358.000 EUR EP budget + 555.600 EUR carry-over budget). This includes:

- withdrawing 310.600 EUR from the funds, split between a partial withdrawal from the Campaign Fund and Operational Reserve,
- adopting the draft membership fees 2023 as tabled, for EU countries only with a total of 514.563 EUR.

Membership fees will only be raised from EU member parties in line with current legal requirements. The voting rights of the non-EU member parties at Council/Congress remain unaffected.

Christian Kmiotek informs that the Finance Advisory Board recommends adopting this budget; the FAB report is available online.

Ute concludes the session after a short Q&A.

Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> December 2022

Plenary

**36<sup>th</sup> EGP Council – Voting Session**

10:00 – 11:30

**Moderators:**

- Mélanie Vogel, EGP Co-Chair
- Benedetta De Marte, EGP Secretary General

Benedetta De Marte, EGP Secretary General, welcomes everyone and reminds delegates that the 36<sup>th</sup> Council voting session is dedicated to the voting on statutory documents of EGP. She asks for confirmation that all delegates have their voting devices.

Benedetta reminds delegates that there are 121 allocated votes for the 36<sup>th</sup> Council. The voting results will be announced out loud for the purpose of the recording and minute taking.

Benedetta reminds delegates that different majorities are needed for different decisions, as indicated in the right column of the voting list. The majorities are:

- A simple majority of the allocated votes: 61 votes
- 3/4 of allocated votes: 91 votes
- 2/3 of allocated votes: 81 votes

Bert Beernink provides an explanation on how to use a voting device and performs a quorum check. There are **121 votes present in the room, hence the quorum is reached**.

Mélanie Vogel, EGP Co-chair and AMC member, takes over the moderation and introduces the first vote which is on the application for full membership of United Reform Action (URA), Montenegro. Mélanie reminds the delegates of URA's presentation yesterday and that URA's representatives are not present at the voting session as they had to travel back to Montenegro. Mélanie points out that 3/4 majority is needed (91 votes) to accept a new member and invites delegates to cast their votes.

**URA's full membership is accepted** unanimously, with 121 votes in favor (100%), 0 votes against (0%) and 0 abstentions (0%). Congratulations!!

The next point on the agenda is the election of the members to the EGP Bodies for a mandate of 3 years.

Benedetta De Marte takes the floor to remind the delegates about the Committee decision to postpone the elections of the one member to the Amendments Committee (AMC), as previously communicated via email and during the presentation of candidacies yesterday ; this was due to a mistake of the Committee, who did not take into account gender quota and should have called for an election of a female candidate. Benedetta thanks the two male applicants for their understanding and apologises once more on behalf of the Committee for this situation. She announces that the by-elections for the vacant spot in the AMC will take

place in the upcoming meeting in June. In the meantime, due to the big amount of work, a female member for AMC will be co-opted for the period of six months.

Mélanie Vogel introduces the next vote to take place is for electing Finance Advisory Board (FAB) members. FAB consists of 3 members and there are two candidates, both running for a second term. Mélanie informs the delegates that the by-election for a female member of FAB will also take place in June.

Mélanie invites the delegates to vote for electing FAB members and reminds everyone that 50% of the votes cast are needed for candidates to get elected.

In the first vote, Christian Kmiotek gains 50 votes (41.3%), Nadia van Huisstede gains 71 votes (58.7%), there are 0 abstentions (0%). **Nadia van Huisstede is elected as a FAB member.**

In the second vote, **Christian Kmiotek is elected as a FAB member** unanimously, with 121 votes in favor (100%) and 0 abstentions.

Mélanie Vogel invites the delegates to vote for electing the members of the Conciliation Panel. There are five candidates for five positions. 50% of the votes cast are needed for candidates to get elected.

In the first round, Ursula Berner gains 41 votes (33.9%), Imane Nadif gains 31 votes (25.6%), Tetiana Bodun gains 20 votes (16.5%), Frieda Jans gains 14 votes (11.6%), Ed Davitt gains 13 votes (10.7%), there are 2 abstentions (1.7%). No one is elected.

Upon many requests of the delegates, Mélanie Vogel proposes to vote the 5 members of the Conciliation Panel by acclamation. There are no objections to this procedure. The delegates vote by acclamation. **All five candidates are elected for Conciliation Panel which now consists of Ursula Berner, Tetiana Bodun, Frieda Jans, Ed Davitt and Imane Nadif.**

The next vote is to elect the EGP representatives to the Global Green Coordination (GGC). The Council is to elect two full members and two alternate members. We have received 7 candidacies for 4 positions.

First, Mélanie Vogel invites the delegates to vote on accepting the late candidacy for the GGC of Zaritsa Dinkova, whose supporting documents were received slightly after the deadline. The late candidacy of Zaritsa Dinkova is accepted as valid, with 110 votes in favor (90.9%), 10 votes against (8.3%) and 1 abstention (0.8%). Mélanie invites delegates to vote for electing the first full member to GGC from the 7 candidates

In the first round, Evelyne Huytebroeck gains 99 votes (81.8%), Eleanor Morrissey gains 12 votes (9.9%), Zaritsa Dinkova gains 5 votes (4.1%), Bodil Valero gains 2 votes (1.7%), Pauline Nales gains 2 votes (1.7%), Serhii Kurykin gains 1 vote (0.8%), Julius Nebel gains 0 votes (0%), there are 0 abstentions (0%). **Evelyne Huytebroeck is elected as the first full member of GGC.**

Mélanie invites delegates to vote for electing the second full member to GGC.

In the first round, Eleanor Morrissey gains 49 votes (40.5%), Bodil Valero gains 40 votes (33.1%), Zaritsa Dinkova gains 18 votes (14.9%), Pauline Nales gains 13 votes (10.7%), Serhii

Kurykin gains 1 vote (0.8%), Julius Nebel gains 0 votes (0%), there are 0 abstentions (0%). No one is elected and the second round between Eleanor Morrissey and Bodil Valero is prepared.

In the second round, Eleanor Morrissey gains 65 votes (53.7%), Bodil Valero gains 56 votes (46.3%), there are 0 abstentions (0%). **Eleanor Morrissey is elected as the second full member of GGC.**

Mélanie invites the delegates to vote for electing the first alternate member to GGC.

In the first round, Pauline Nales gains 48 votes (39.7%), Bodil Valero gains 45 votes (37.2%), Zaritsa Dinkova gains 21 votes (17.4%), Serhii Kurykin gains 4 votes (3.3%), Julius Nebel gains 3 votes (2.5%), there are 0 abstentions (0%). No one is elected and the second round between Pauline Nales and Bodil Valero takes place.

In the second round, Pauline Nales gains 70 votes (57.9%), Bodil Valero gains 50 votes (41.3%), there is 1 abstention (0.8%). **Pauline Nales is elected as the first substitute member of the GGC.**

Mélanie invites delegates to vote for electing the second substitute member to GGC.

In the first round, Bodil Valero gains 51 votes (42.1%), Julius Nebel gains 38 votes (31.4%), Zaritsa Dinkova gains 29 votes (24.0%), Serhii Kurykin gains 3 votes (2.5%), there are 0 abstentions (0%). No one is elected and the second round between Bodil Valero and Julius Nebel is prepared.

In the second round, Bodil Valero gains 71 votes (58.7%), Julius Nebel gains 49 votes (40.5%), there is 1 abstention (0.8%). **Bodil Valero is elected as the second substitute member of the GGC.**

Mélanie thanks all candidates for their participation as well as the outgoing GGC members for their efforts.

The next vote is on the draft minutes from the previous Council. Mélanie informs delegates that there were no amendments tabled on the minutes.

**The minutes from 35<sup>th</sup> Council are adopted** with 116 votes in favor (95.9%), 0 votes against (0%) and 5 abstentions (4.1%).

The next vote is on the Updated EGP Membership List (Annex B to the EGP Statutes). Mélanie explains that the newly elected full member URA is added to the Membership List and invites delegates to vote.

**The Updated EGP Membership List (Annex B) is adopted** with 120 votes in favor (99.2%), 0 votes against (0%) and 1 abstention (0.8%).

Mélanie announces that the next vote is on EGP Budget and Membership Fees 2023. There were no amendments to these documents. Mélanie informs delegates that 2/3 majority of votes cast is needed and invites the delegates to vote.

**EGP Budget and Membership Fees 2023 are adopted** with 119 votes in favor (98.3%), 2 votes against (1.7%) and 0 abstentions (0%).

Mélanie announces that the next vote is on the Activity Plan 2023.



One amendment was tabled by the EGP Committee and accepted in the Compromise Amendments Sessions (CAS). Mélanie invites the delegates to vote. The amendment is adopted with 115 votes in favor (95.0%), 3 votes against (2.5%) and 3 abstentions (2.5%).

Mélanie invites the delegates to vote on the Activity Plan 2023, as amended. The **Activity Plan 2023 is adopted as amended** with 118 votes in favor (97.5%), 0 votes against (0%) and 3 abstentions (2.5%).

The next agenda point is on the Revised EGP Statutes and Rule Book, which are the outcome after one year of deliberations in the Working Group Revision of Rule Book. Mélanie invites the delegates to vote en block on the CAS Amendments. CAS Amendments are approved with 101 votes in favor (83.5%), 13 votes against (10.7%) and 7 abstentions (5.8%).

Mélanie announces the next vote on amendment 2 on the Revised EGP Statutes, tabled by GroenLinks.

Gebke van Gaal from GroenLinks speaks in favor of the amendment and Ute Michel, from the EGP Committee speaks against the amendment.

Mélanie invites the delegates to vote on Amendment 2. Amendment 2 is rejected with 33 votes in favor (27.3%), 87 votes against (71.9%) and 1 abstention (0.8%).

The next vote is on amendment 4 on the Revised EGP Statutes, tabled by GroenLinks. Mélanie explains that the vote concerns the number of EGP Committee members.

Gebke van Gaal from GroenLinks speaks in favor of the amendment and Ute Michel from EGP Committee speaks against the amendment.

Mélanie invites the delegates to vote on Amendment 4. Amendment 4 is rejected with 14 votes in favor (11.6%), 107 votes against (88.4%) and 0 abstention (0%).

The next vote is on amendment 5 on the Revised EGP Statutes, tabled by GroenLinks. Mélanie explains that the vote concerns the addition of the text that the member of the Committee nominated by FYEG also has to be confirmed by the Council.

Gebke van Gaal from GroenLinks speaks in favour of the amendment and Ute Michel from EGP Committee speaks against the amendment

Mélanie invites the delegates to vote on Amendment 5. Amendment 5 is rejected with 15 votes in favor (12.4%), 102 votes against (84.3%) and 4 abstentions (3.3%).

Mélanie invites the delegates to vote on Revised Statutes as amended and reminds delegates that for this vote 2/3 majority is needed.

**The revised EGP Statutes is adopted as amended** with 112 votes in favor (92.6%), 3 votes against (2.5%) and 6 abstentions (5.0%).

Mélanie invites the delegates to vote on Revised Rule Book.

**The revised EGP Rule Book is adopted** with 113 votes in favor (93.4%), 2 votes against (1.7%) and 6 abstentions (5.0%).

The last vote in the Council voting session is on the proposal for the transitional period for the implementation of the adopted revised Statutes and the Rule book. Mélanie invites the delegates to vote.

**The proposal for the transitional period is adopted** with 118 votes in favor (97.5%), 0 votes against (0%) and 3 abstentions (2.5%).

The Council thanks the members of the WG for their work. It is expected a few more changes to the Statutes will be proposed at the June Extraordinary Congress in order to conform them to the Recast of Regulation 1141/2014.

In respect of the formal follow up, a special proxy is granted to Mr. Philippe Renier of the law firm Renier.Tax, a Belgian lawyer established in 1831 Diegem, Lambroekstraat 5A, acting alone, to appear before any Belgian notary in order to notarise the modifications to the EGP Statutes as just decided upon by the 36<sup>th</sup> EGP Council, and to arrange for the publication of the minutes in the annexes of the Belgian Gazette. The costs and fees will be borne by the EGP.

Mélanie Vogel closes the 36<sup>th</sup> EGP Council and reminds the delegates that the Congress voting session will start at 11:45 and will be chaired by the Congress Presidium.

Benedetta De Marte  
Secretary General of the European Green Party  
Brussels, 16 January 2023