

Motivation Bodil Valero

The reason why I want to be part of the EGP Committee is that I want Green Parties to grow everywhere in Europe, and the rest of the world, and to stay politically strong, or get stronger, wherever we exist already. During my long time in Green politics I've seen many ups and downs and I'm convinced that with stubbornness combined with positive messaging it's possible to get on track again. With one foot in Sweden and one in Spain/Catalonia, I want to use my extensive experience from the local, regional, national and European levels to help the EGP and its member parties to become more effective in campaigning for electoral results, and negotiating for political results. I also want to help develop our work on issues such as migration and human rights, security and development cooperation.

I joined the Green Party in Gävle in 1986 (after the Tjernobyl accident hit Gävle very hard and when my first son was born). I became an active member in 1991 (after the second). My entrance in politics started with the fight to start an alternative pre-school for my children with ecological food etc.

1994 I was elected for the first time to the Municipal Assembly and the Municipal Executive Board. I became the main counsellor for the Greens in 2002, after an election where we had lost a seat and the previous counsellor resigned. Even though we were in a weak position (only 3 seats out of 65) I managed to get into the majority even though the Social Democrats didn't need us. They thought it was dangerous to have me "outside the tent". It was there I started to hone my political negotiating and campaigning skills: getting the Greens into a position of power and using that to gain - instead of the normal, losing - support in the next election."

During my time as a part-time politician on the local and regional levels, I also got involved in European politics. I worked for 10 years as national assistant very closely with Green MEP Inger Schörling when she was, among other things, rapporteur on REACH. (This reminder is worth a look <http://wwf.panda.org/?14592/Profile-The-only-planet-guide-to-chemicals>)

After my four years as counsellor, In the 2006 election, despite a term in the tricky situation of being minority partner in a governing coalition, we increased our support, to 5 full members with 3 deputy members. But it was time for me to leave local and regional politics for the national level, as I had been the leading Green candidate for Parliament from my region.

Even though I worked mostly in energy and environment and migration in my hometown in Parliament I became the spokesperson for migration and foreign affairs. Areas I've continued to work with also in the European Parliament. Human Rights (including migration and minority rights), defence, security and cooperation has become my main expertise during these years. In particular when it comes to restricting arms exports where I was the Green member in the parliamentary committee changing the Swedish legislation on arms export and later on twice the rapporteur in the EP.

As a politician with focus on foreign affairs I've tried to have good contacts with our sister parties in the rest of the world to get the green input on what happens in their countries from the beginning. I have very good contact with Global Greens and many member parties.

In the EGP Committee I would like to focus on strengthening or building green parties in Europe and our neighbouring countries. As a person with one foot in Sweden and one in Spain/Catalonia, I know very well our differences and possibilities as green parties to grow. There is no one-size-fits-all and north and south have to work in different ways, but we have also a lot to learn from each other. During the five years to come I believe EGPs main

task is to assist member parties to grow (on all political levels) to be strong in the next European elections, and of course on the local and national level.

I would also like to contribute with my expertise in my main areas mentioned above. Migration and Security, Arms Export etc. Other areas I've worked a lot with both in Sweden and then EP are Western Sahara, Turkey, Roma, member states compliance with Human Rights in Europe.