

Hope in challenging times: Let's make a green future possible in the 2024 European elections

1 **The 2024 European elections will be like no European elections held before.**

2 We only have a few years left to take and implement the right decisions to keep our planet livable
3 for humans: our air breathable, the water drinkable and accessible to all, and biodiversity
4 protected. The terrible heatwaves, forest fires, droughts, and flooding of the last summer are the
5 implacable results of wrong political choices with huge social and economic consequences for our
6 societies and will only worsen in the near future if we do not change course immediately.

7 ~~Autocrats~~ The European project and democracy itself are under constant threat. Autocracies are on
8 the rise in Europe, the EU and elsewhere in Europe, and with them, attacks on rule of law and
9 fundamental rights, ~~especially on~~ not only the rights of women and LGBTQIA+ rights, but equally
10 those of civil society organisations, BIPOC, individual activists, homeless people, asylum seekers
11 and refugees on the European
12 project as such. Putin's brutal aggression against Ukraine has led to thousands of innocent people
13 losing their lives and millions of people being forced to flee ~~the~~ war. Fueled by our economies'
14 addiction to gas and oil ~~from Russia~~, it constitutes the biggest threat to the fundamental values of
15 our societies, and
16 to peace in Europe.

17 The global energy and food crises are direct results of irresponsible and short-
18 sighted political decisions. They increase the existing social injustices and
19 fuel social anger by making the most vulnerable, those who contributed the least
20 to these crises, suffer from them the most. While at the same time, those who
21 are mainly responsible are not paying their share and are even profiting from
22 it.

23 Our climate is in crisis, ~~social inequalities are growing, and~~ our democracies
24 are at risk and social inequalities are growing.

25 Only a project that has always understood these dimensions together, only a
26 project based on a rational, science-based and humanist diagnosis of the current
27 crises while at the same time taking into account people's feelings and real anxieties regarding an
28 uncertain future, can provide the right solutions.

29 This is exactly what our common green project is.

30 ~~Nobody had predicted the timing of the Covid-19 pandemic. Yet, because we listen~~
31 ~~to Scientists, we were not surprised when a zoonose paralyzed our lives. In~~
32 ~~fact, we had been warning for decades about the global health risks of~~
33 ~~deforestation and under-financing of essential sectors and public services and~~
34 ~~were the first one advocating for a common debt instrument to ensure solidarity~~
35 ~~in investments for recovery.~~

36 Greens emerged decades ago because we realized that our growth-based, fossils addicted and unjust model would
37 drive humankind into ruin. We needed to join political forces to counter these developments.
38 We have been listening to scientists, we knew that sooner or later we would be hit by a zoonose paralyzing our lives.
39 And then we were confronted by COVID 19.
40 We have been warning against monopolistic ties with Russian dictatorship and the risk for peace, security and climate
41 that our dependency on Russian gas was posing. And then the Russian army invaded Ukraine.
42 We have been reading what scientists told us, what the IPCC wrote in every single report, that climate change could be
43 devastating and that numerous environmental damages are already irreversible. And then during the European
44 summers of 2021 and 2022 people lost their lives, their homes and livelihood, in so many places worldwide.

45 Nobody knew if, when and how Putin will aggress Ukraine. Yet, as a European
46 family, we always showed clarity in our stance against Putin's regime. **Greens in**
47 **all European countries had constantly warned against ties with the Russian**
48 **dictator and the risk for peace, security and climate that our dependency on**
49 **Russian gaz was posing.** And as a matter of fact, we were united as European
50 Greens in condemning Putin's aggression, calling for effective sanctions and in
51 calling for supporting the Ukrainian resistance.

52 Nobody knew the exact level of catastrophe the 2022 summer will bring. Yet,
53 because the scientists told us, because the IPCC wrote it in every single
54 report, we knew that the summer could be devastating and that numerous
55 environmental damages are already irreversible.

56 Greens emerged decades ago because the certainty that our growth-based, fossils
57 addicted and unjust model would drive humankind to ruin needed a political force
58 to be conveyed.

59 Greens stem from the peace and global justice movement. We are globally committed to human rights, peace and
60 social justice. We need to be aware of our colonial past and take responsibility for justice in this world. And we stand
61 by our international responsibility and the Geneva Refugee Convention. Refugees are eligible for access to proper
62 accommodation, care and legal aid free of discrimination. We say it clear: Refugees are welcome here!

63 Together, as European Greens, we have a credible, fair, democratic and positive
64 alternative to the devastation created by the deadly duel between the status quo
65 and authoritarianism, a path towards a world where our planet's environmental boundaries are respected
66 and where the social foundation is accessible to each and everyone of us, a world where the climate crisis is tackled,
67 biodiversity is preserved, clean air and healthy soils are a given, where our economies are sustainable, discrimination
68 has vanished, and equal rights and high social protection are ensured." ~~the climate crises is tackled~~
69 ~~and the planet's boundaries are respected, towards clean air and healthy soils,~~
70 ~~towards a society without discrimination, with equal rights and high social~~
71 ~~protection.~~ We need a Europe that holds out hope for change in these difficult times. We built a
72 European project based on the unwavering conviction that
73 national governments alone cannot face the challenges of the century, together as Europeans we are
74 stronger in tackling these se crises ~~than alone~~ and that
75 only a strong European democracy can protect the general interest.

76 **We are ready.**

77 In 2019, the strength of the climate movement played a significant role in

78 propelling the Greens to a successful result in the European elections.

79 The green wave was a demonstration of an ongoing deep cultural change in the
80 society, and particularly within youth, of a powerful citizens' will to see change happening and a
81 source of
82 hope, echoed in many following elections at local, regional and national levels
83 in Europe.

84 In the European Parliament, we have been punching above our weight in passing
85 and implementing more ambitious legislation to tackle the biodiversity crisis
86 and climate emergency, to fight corruption, in upholding social rights and wealth redistribution, in
87 giving the EU more tools to protect fundamental rights and freedom of European
88 citizens against autocrats.

89 In the eight national governments and in all the regions and cities with Greens
90 in responsibility, Greens are already making a difference on the ground. They
91 provide immediate solutions to people who cannot afford to pay their bills, who
92 need mobility options and who are facing precariousness and cannot participate
93 fully in society. They have started to shape the future by investing in
94 renewables, in green infrastructures, in public services, in innovative
95 citizens' participative tools, in inclusive policies.

96 **But we know that for the necessary changes to happen, we need to go way beyond.**

97 The time where greens were visionary whistleblowers, alerting, denouncing,
98 warning against the impossibility of our economic model to be sustainable is
99 long past.

100 **Time has come for the greens to be at the center of new majorities in Europe.**

101 Time has come to build robust and long-term policies to fight climate change, to
102 protect biodiversity, to organize the energy, transport and the agricultural transition not
103 only in Europe but also in recognition of Europe's share of responsibility for
104 tackling these issues globally.

105 Time has come to create a social Europe where all Europeans have access to
106 properly financed public services, including health care and social protection,
107 where no one is left behind, where everyone receives proper education as well as affordable
108 housing, where youth unemployment is ending and where redistribution is the driver of European
109 fiscal and tax policy. A Europe that protects and upholds workers' rights.

110 "Time has come to make way for the transition to a sustainable and fair economic system in Europe, that is
111 independent from fossils and aims at creating a circular economy and good jobs with adequate wages."

112 Time has come to take the voices of the youth seriously, to bring youth to the decision-making table, and to grant them
113 the right to vote from the age of 16. Young people will be the one's most affected by the decisions we make today, and
114 they must be involved in taking those decisions.

115 Time has come to build a feminist, inclusive and anti-racist Europe, with
116 reforms to protect fundamental rights and freedoms, equal rights for all, and to
117 fight against all types of discrimination in all areas. A federal Europe capable

118 of protecting and sharing its values at the global level, where rule of law is and democracy are
119 guaranteed, and where no European citizen's right can be threatened.

120 Time has come for the European Union to stand for global justice as well as to protect human rights and prevent
121 conflicts worldwide. We are committed to the implementation of the Agenda 2030, a feminist foreign policy as well as
122 tackling post-colonial political structures.

123 **Time has come for the green project to stop being a project, to become a reality**
124 **for all - and it is our responsibility to make that happen.**

125 The task ahead of us is not easy.

126 While many try to justify climate inaction because of the war in Ukraine, we
127 know now is the time to double our efforts.

128 While some try to play off the most vulnerable people and the climate crisis, we
129 know that the transition has to be just.

130 While others try to justify their inaction against autocrats because of both the
131 climate and social crisis, we know that the transition only works in democracies
132 where everyone has a say.

133 While some want to shatter it, we want to enhance and improve the Green deal.

134 But together, we will fight the backlash on the Green transition and the
135 backlash on fundamental rights. Together, our united answer to the insecurities
136 of our time is hope instead of fear and solidarity instead of further division.

137 We will fight for a society where the ability of all of us, today and tomorrow,
138 to lead a life of dignity and rights on a healthy planet will be ensured.

139 And we know that those who will be in power in the next years to come, in the most
140 decisive moment for humanity, will get to decide whether we tackle the climate
141 crisis, fight injustices, strengthen our common democracy, defend our rights and
142 values or whether we let a broken model destroy our social contract, our
143 democratic model and ultimately our planet.

144 **That is why we take up our responsibility to reach out and convince as many**
145 **people as possible of our ideas with unshakable determination.**

146 Towards 2024, we European Greens, in the most European campaign ever, want to
147 show the way to the most powerful idea of this century: the possibility of a
148 green future.

149 And to do so, we, the European Greens, aim to:

- 150 Build stronger connections with civil society, citizens' movements, social
151 partners, youth and seniors' organisations, scientific community, in respect of our
152 respective roles, by involving them in a *listening process* at an early
153 stage in view of the drafting of our Common Manifesto, which proposes green politics
154 responding to both social and environmental problems;
- 155 Open up to new thinking and connect further with partners, including in



- 156 the business sector, in order to propose to European citizens the most
157 workable and credible plan to engage in the green transition, in constant dialogue with
158 trade unions;
- 159 Continue our work to open up to and welcome new political forces who share
160 our values in our family and in our European campaign in our family and European Campaign new
161 political forces who share our common green values, positions and democratic principles.”;
- 162 Strengthen the European dimension of the European elections including by
163 standing strongly behind the Leading Candidates process and the call for
164 transnational lists and by Europeanizing to the maximum extent the debate
165 around the EU elections, especially in those countries where our presence
166 is quite strong;
- 167 Contribute to significantly raise the turnout to the European elections
168 especially by focusing our campaign on first-time and young voters, as well as on
169 awareness raising for EU citizens living abroad;
- 170 Continue our intense cooperation with our partners from the Green Group in
171 the European Parliament, the Federation of Young European Greens and the
172 Green European Foundation;
- 173 Continue to support the long-term perspectives and capacities of our
174 member parties also beyond the European elections;
- 175 Bring the European Green parties closer by fostering the dialogue further
176 on our common vision and policies for the European Union, also by actively involving their
177 representatives on all levels;
- 178 Achieve the best result we ever achieved in European elections, with more
179 MEPs from more countries, in order to make a green majority possible for Greens to be at
180 the centre of future majorities in
181 the next European Parliament and in the European Commission.