



Draft

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

Tabled by: EGP Committee

Draft text

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

9 Autocrats are on the rise in Europe and with them, attacks on rule of law and
10 fundamental rights, especially on women and LGBTQIA+ rights, and on the European
11 project as such. Putin's brutal aggression against Ukraine has led to thousands
12 of innocent people losing their lives and millions of people being forced to
13 flee the war. Fueled by our economies' addiction to gas and oil from Russia, it
14 constitutes the biggest threat to the fundamental values of our societies, and
15 to peace in Europe.

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

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

24 Only a project that has always understood these dimensions together, only a
25 project based on a rational, science-based and humanist diagnosis of the current
26 crises can provide the right solutions.

27 This is exactly what our common green project is.

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

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

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

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

48 Together, as European Greens, we have a credible, fair, democratic and positive
49 alternative to the devastation created by the deadly duel between the status quo
50 and authoritarianism, a path towards a world where the climate crises is tackled
51 and the planet's boundaries are respected, towards clean air and healthy soils,
52 towards a society without discrimination, with equal rights and high social
53 protection. We built a European project based on the unwavering conviction that

54 together as Europeans we are stronger in tackling the crises than alone and that
55 only a strong European democracy can protect the general interest.

56 **We are ready.**

57 In 2019, the strength of the climate movement played a significant role in
58 propelling the Greens to a successful result in the European elections.

59 The green wave was a demonstration of an ongoing deep cultural change in the
60 society, of a powerful citizens' will to see change happening and a source of
61 hope, echoed in many following elections at local, regional and national levels
62 in Europe.

63 In the European Parliament, we have been punching above our weight in passing
64 and implementing more ambitious legislation to tackle the biodiversity crisis
65 and climate emergency, in upholding social rights and wealth redistribution, in
66 giving the EU more tools to protect fundamental rights and freedom of European
67 citizens against autocrats.

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

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

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

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

80 Time has come to build robust and long-term policies to fight climate change, to
81 protect biodiversity, to organize the energy and the agricultural transition not
82 only in Europe but also in recognition of Europe's share of responsibility for

83 tackling these issues globally.

84 Time has come to create a social Europe where all Europeans have access to
85 properly financed public services, including health care and social protection,
86 where no one is left behind and where redistribution is the driver of European
87 fiscal and tax policy.

88 Time has come to build a feminist, inclusive and anti-racist Europe, with
89 reforms to protect fundamental rights and freedoms, equal rights for all, and to
90 fight against all types of discrimination in all areas. A federal Europe capable
91 of protecting and sharing its values at the global level, where rule of law is
92 guaranteed, and where no European citizen's right can be threatened.

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

95 The task ahead of us is not easy.

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

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

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

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

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

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

109 And we know that those who will be in power in the next years, in the most

110 decisive moment for humanity, will get to decide whether we tackle the climate
111 crisis, fight injustices, strengthen our common democracy, defend our rights and
112 values or whether we let a broken model destroy our social contract, our
113 democratic model and our planet.

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

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

119 And to do so, we aim to:

- 120 • Build stronger connections with civil society, citizens' movements, social
121 partners, youth organisations, scientific community, in respect of our
122 respective roles, by involving them in a *listening process* at an early
123 stage in view of the drafting of our Common Manifesto;
- 124 • Open up to new thinking and connect further with partners, including in
125 the business sector, in order to propose to European citizens the most
126 workable and credible plan to engage in the green transition;
- 127 • Continue our work to open up to and welcome new political forces who share
128 our values in our family and in our European campaign;
- 129 • Strengthen the European dimension of the European elections including by
130 standing strongly behind the Leading Candidates process and the call for
131 transnational lists and by Europeanizing to the maximum extent the debate
132 around the EU elections, especially in those countries where our presence
133 is quite strong;
- 134 • Contribute to significantly raise the turnout to the European elections
135 especially by focusing our campaign on first-time and young voters;
- 136 • Continue our intense cooperation with our partners from the Green Group in
137 the European Parliament, the Federation of Young European Greens and the
138 Green European Foundation;

- 139 • Continue to support the long-term perspectives and capacities of our
140 member parties also beyond the European elections;

- 141 • Bring the European Green parties closer by fostering the dialogue further
142 on our common vision and policies for the European Union;

- 143 • Achieve the best result we ever achieved in European elections, with more
144 MEPs from more countries, in order to make a green majority possible in
145 the next European Parliament and in the European Commission.