

MICHAL BERG - CANDIDATE FOR THE EGP COMMITTEE

Dear fellow Greens,

after an intense year as a replacing member of the EGP committee, which brought us not only the greatest result in the European parliament election, but also many challenges for upcoming years, I have decided to ask for your support as a candidate for EGP committee member for upcoming term.

Many of the challenges we will face are connected to the eastern part of our continent and I, as a person with deep connection to the region, would like to contribute with my experiences and energy towards making Greens stronger political force also in the Eastern Europe.

MY GOAL IN THE COMMITTEE

We are seeing divide between north/west and south/east Europe. Climate change is overtaking migration as the most important issue for authoritarian leaders in their battle against EU. Climate policies are largely being communicated to general public as a tool to “destroy” Eastern European industries.

We must do everything we can to combat these narratives, because they are harmful not only to us, the people living this part of Europe, but also to our common European pursuit towards ambitious climate action. Some countries already used their vetoes on EU climate neutrality. Their reluctance to accept seriousness of climate change is endangering whole EU, and to some extent also worldwide climate efforts: it's difficult to imagine EU as world climate leader without some of its members on board.

To close the green gaps we have in some European countries, especially eastern and southern, we must develop and implement strategy to utilize all means - from the EGP level, from the level of our group in the European parliament, Green European Foundation and also from individual member parties, especially those, who are very succesful recently. We all have shared responsibility to cooperate on this effort.

Although Greens aren't so successful on the East as a political family, there are progressive parties and movements, which have more or less environmental and climate policies among their agenda. Also some of the municipal politicians, like newly elected mayor of Bratislava Matúš Vallo, were running on purely 'green' platform. This tells a lot: there is a demand of green policies also in this part of Europe - we just need to be better when fulfilling this demand. But I am sure that there is a way to spill our green wave eastwards.

WHAT DO I OFFER TO THE EGP

- Coordination of EGP efforts in the Eastern part of our continent - both within EU and outside its borders. We sometimes tends to forget about countries outside it. Both groups of member parties (EU and non-EU) have organizations in various shapes and political situations and EGP needs to find the right way to work with them and support them.
- I am well connected to other progressive parties and movements in the central Europe, especially to Czech Pirate Party (whose MEPs joined our group eventually), and also Progressive Slovakia (whose political agenda is close to ours, despite being part of Renew Europe group). Movements like those are proof that progressive politics could be successful also in the eastern Europe.
- Local councillor network needs a major reboot. We have such a wealth in our people serving to local communities, towns and cities, and those people deserve our support. Municipal level is also a tool to establish or strengthen our presence in those countries, where we aren't so far successful on national level. There are also many of green-minded local councillors, who could be attracted to Greens if they will see there are benefits of international networking. Some ideas: pan-european platform and knowledge-base for sharing best practices; networking tool for enabling direct partnerships (think Tinder for local green chapters); e-learning programmes to develop skills and knowledge; smaller regional events for local politicians; selected content (e.g. campaigning handbook) also translated to local languages.
- With cooperation with relevant actors, especially Green European Foundation, where I have recently served as a member of the board, I would like to strengthen capacity building and networking initiatives for European Greens. I strongly believe in networking and sharing highs and lows in our green family both among parties and individuals. And there are plenty of opportunities for such an activities - on level of municipal councillors and mayors, on level of local and regional branches of various Greens, but also on level of parties' leadership. We are having more and more politicians with governmental or mayoral experiences and we should benefit from sharing our best practices, but also our failures.
- EGP in upcoming months will undergo a debate about its further development, including organizational structures and processes. I will be happy to contribute to our great staff with my experiences of years of building and managing firm of 50+ employees from my pre-political career.

MY PROFILE

- 2001 - 2016: Entrepreneur in IT; I've sold my company after started being active in refugee help in 2015. I've simply decided that there are more important things to do in my life than running a businessman.
- Member of the Czech Greens since 2010.
- Since 2014 I have been a local councillor in my hometown Vsetín, reelected 2018.
- During 2014 - 2018 I was a member of the board of the Czech Greens.
- Since April 2018 member of the EGP committee for the remaining time of the previous term, also member of the board of Green European Foundation.
- My political agenda: I have been a Czech greens' spokesperson for human rights issues, especially for migration and digital rights, and also - because of my experience as an entrepreneur - I have been active in topics like greening the economy, promoting sustainable entrepreneurship, tackling tax avoidance and promoting other green-economy topics. Now focusing mostly on climate and European issues.
- I have been also active in capacity building, internal education and networking initiatives, including international networking, both within the Greens and in other civic initiatives and movements.
- Studied marketing communications and business administration.
- Married, one kid, recently on parental leave.
- Languages spoken: Czech/Slovak, English, Polish, Russian



Thank you for your support! I am looking forward to working with you.

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