

Activities Plan 2015

Adopted as amended at the 21st EGP Council, 7-9 November, 2014

Introduction

After the successful election campaign in 2014 the Committee will direct its attention to the following priorities in 2015: membership relations, strengthening exchange between member parties, promotion of transnational activities, initiate projects on key topics and for networks and in follow up of the evaluation of the elections a plan that looks into the future with a perspective for 2019, an outlook that combines the development of our policies, strengthening our parties, open up for movements and supporting our politicians.

The draft budget for 2015 has taken into account the planned activities and initiatives you find below.

Perspectives for 2019

After the Istanbul Council the Committee will start to work on a strategy for the years leading up to the European Elections in r 2019. The strategy will include an analysis of the election results, a mapping of actors in our political vicinity, an assessment of our strengths, weaknesses and strategic challenges and a work programme to realise the way to the next elections. We will describe ways to strengthen our member parties, to build alliances and develop our political agenda for the future.

Political Priorities

The Common Green Manifesto stands as our common cohesive political base for the upcoming years.

Trade will continue to be one of our priorities, we will work on trade issues, most prominently on TTIP (plus CETA plus TISA) with the clear goal of first of all creating transparency, of defeating the corporate agendas and of protecting our values and our standards and defending the democratic right to legislate against investor privileges (ISDS) as we have unanimously agreed in our February Electoral Council. Following the discussions around the EGP Manifesto we will deepen our general orientation with the goal of developing a green trade policy. We will invite member parties to present their input, and on that basis organise a working group that should report back about the results of its work to the Council in 2015. We will cooperate with the Green Group in the European Parliament, the Federation of Young European Greens and civic movements to that end. The EGP will join and actively support the European Citizens' Initiative "Stop TTIP" that the European Commission is trying to suppress.

We will take up the following new political priorities in the upcoming year (also see annexes):

- Populism and Right-Wing Extremism

A Working Group will focus on analysing the political situation in those countries that are confronted with Anti-Democratic, anti-European populism. We need to understand and evaluate how these movements are developing and why are successful. The WG will aim to produce a tool box to exchange best practices to successfully counter them and challenge populist rhetoric and they will prepare a political resolution with the outcome for the spring Council.

- Inclusion

Levels of discrimination, direct or indirect, in European countries towards different groups of people are still too high despite international treaties and legislation approved by most of the countries. We Greens believe that improving and developing different positive measures and actions is the key to make society more inclusive and thus more equal. We should therefore take the lead on positive inclusion measures, and ensure that our structures and processes are as accessible and inclusive as possible.
- Climate Change in view of COP21

As Greens we want to play a vital and visible role in the public discussion around and in the run up towards COP 21 end of 2015 in Paris. The EGP Committee would like to work on a common climate change campaign, to communicate a strong, coherent and united Green message on COP21 and to put Climate Change back on top of the European agenda.
- Better Integration of the EU

Based on an initiative by our member parties LMP and ICV, the Committee proposes an additional new EGP working group on "Better integration" of the EU. The WG will be open to all member parties and is expected to report back to the EGP Council about its work before the end of 2015. The WG will be tasked with trying to analyze the short-comings of the present model of EU integration, taking into account particularly the experience of Southern and Eastern member states, and with proposing ideas regarding an integration approach that would suit EU member states better. The WG will also consider the issue of long-term postponement of debt repayment and a possible European Marshall-Plan supporting green growth in Southern and Eastern Europe. The EGP committee will accept the responsibility of managing the WG, while the work will be based on contributions from member parties. As far as the WG comes up with proposals for new EGP decisions on economic and social policies, these shall be presented to the vote in a Council together with proposals from the GND WG; as far as proposals for new EU decision making processes or new institutional structures are concerned, these will be presented to the vote in a Council together with eventual proposals from the Future of Europe WG.
- The Green New Deal

We want to get the messages that have been produced in the EGP policy papers on the Green New Deal across to the public the EGP member parties. A Working Group would update the policies where necessary and develop concrete tools to spread our common proposals to transform EU policies to a Green economy.
- Gender

The Committee proposes to develop three events until the end of 2015. Following the recent developments in Spain and France, which show that established reproductive rights are not set in stone, the Gender Network would discuss and compare the different legislative realities in Europe. At an event on 8 March, Womens' Day, co-organised with GGEP, we would like to present the Gender Equality Index (European Institute for Gender Equality), a tool that will help concretely to define further political demands and positions. A workshop at the spring Council will focus on the Gender priorities at the GGEP for this mandate. And we would like to explore the connection between Climate Change and Gender linked to the Climate Change campaign.

- Local Councillors

The EGP Committee would like to plan a Conference on “Green Cities” in 2015; How we act locally to change Europe. We propose a small working group to coordinate the planning of the conference and the development of a resolution on “Green Cities” paper for the Autumn Council.

Next to this the Committee will continue the discussion on the future of Europe.

The EGP will facilitate cooperation between the Green Group in the European Parliament and experts from the member parties in order to produce a position paper to assist the member parties in their efforts to raise awareness about and create political pressure in their respective countries regarding the Post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals.

To help coordinating common priorities the Committee intends to continue the Green Leaders meetings.

Working groups and networks

Further development of key networks

On top of the list is the Local Councillors’ network, a valuable network and a potentially great resource for party support and -building. As mentioned above, the Committee plans a major conference in 2015. Next to this the Committee will engage in discussion with all the networks to develop mid term strategies for the further work and development of the networks.

Partners

Global Greens

The Committee has proposed a plan for the organisation of the next Global Greens Congress to be decided in the Spring Council of 2015.

FYEG

We continue to work in cooperation with our youth partner. We appreciate the intense level of activities they manage to organise with relative low resources. The Committee intends to continue efforts for youth participation and keep this as a high political priority for the next year.

GEF

With part of the GEF General Assembly composed of representatives of the Member parties we hope to strengthen the ties between the member parties and the GEF. The Committee particularly welcomes the intention of the GEF to continue its work with the Journal and next to that focus on the Green Academy and is looking forward to cooperate on some of the Committee priorities, like the project on populism and to make use of the valuable research capacity of the GEF when it comes to analysis of Green parties and movements.

Green Group in the European Parliament

The Committee will strive to continue and expand the ever-growing working relationship. In the upcoming year one of the fields of cooperation lies in the campaign for COP21. The Green Group will decide on its priorities in November. Following these we will further define our fields of cooperation.

Membership

Relations with our Members

The Committee intends to continue to visit member parties. Visits are helpful for getting a better understanding of each party and the political situation, and helping to form a better understanding of the state of play of Green parties in general.

Exchange

The Committee would like to initiate an exchange project for interns and make it possible that people can learn and acquire experiences in other member parties.

Transnational activities and continuing common campaigning

To continue to build upon successful experiences in the campaign the Committee has reserved funding in its budget to be able to contribute to cross border and transnational activities. The Campaign manager, supported by the EGP Office Staff will drive the process and initiate common activities.

Applications

In some countries Green parties have a strong and secured position. In other countries Green parties are subject to new developments and change. Sometimes our partners are surpassed by younger and electorally more attractive parties. The Green brand, our European Green family, needs to strengthen further and the fact that we keep receiving membership applications shows that we are a popular brand to belong to. After the campaign the Committee has taken up the requests that are pending for membership, will continue to do so in 2015 and will allocate more time to actively pursue relations with the Member Parties.

Membership fees and allocation of delegates and votes

The 2009 Autumn Council decided upon a multi-annual framework for membership fees for the period 2009 – 2014. In 2015 we will propose a multi-annual framework for the period 2015 – 2019 on the membership fees, including the build up of the funds at the Spring Council 2015. Within the Fit for the Future project we decided not to discuss the reimbursement rules and the criteria for the membership fees in view of this multi-annual agreement. A working group has been installed by the Committee, consisting of Committee members and the Financial advisors who will prepare a draft proposal for revision for the Spring Council 2015.

Organisation

Grant application and revision regulation

We expect the revision of the regulation of the financing of European political parties and foundations to be adopted by end 2014. As a consequence new Statutes have to be produced and adopted. Since we have recently adopted new Statutes and are adapting them where necessary at our Councils, this is more a formality than a content change, but nevertheless requires our prompt attention.

EGP Office: Support and communication

Thanks to the EGP Grant the office can remain staffed as proposed and adopted by the Madrid Council. For the purpose of making the best possible use of the experiences in the campaign the Committee would like to continue the engagement with campaign manager Johannes Hillje in the form of a consultancy agreement. The Office will, next, to the support for the Committee and the organisation of

the Council, reinforce efforts for common campaigning and transnational activities and will work on the improvement of a common Greens' identity. The office will continue its efforts towards social media presence and continue the professional support towards this principle.

Committee and Council meetings

The Committee proposes a Council on 24-26 April and on 13-15 November 2015.

In between 8 Committee meetings are organised to manage the party, execute the priorities and prepare the Council. The Committee meetings are scheduled for:

- 30-31 January
- 27-28 February
- 27-28 March
- 29-30 May
- 3-4 July
- 4-5 September
- 9-10 October
- 11-12 December

The agendas and the minutes are posted on the internal Delegates platform.

EGP Working Group on Populism and Right-Wing Extremism

I. Context

The European elections have confronted us with important gains for populist and eurosceptic parties such as Front National in France or UKIP in the UK. This is a worrying evolution in the political playing field that should not be taken lightly. As Greens, we have a responsibility and an interest to investigate why Europeans are being seduced by their discourse. We should therefore investigate the diversity of populisms that exist and the political and moral challenge they offer to our own basic values and ideas. We also need to look at what is working for them, and what we can learn from it.

2. Goal

The goal of the working group will be threefold:

- Prepare an analysis of the political situation in those countries that are especially confronted with populism and euroscepticism
- Prepare a toolbox for internal use for the member parties to handle the phenomenon. This should not be a 'one size fits all' project, rather a gathering of best practices that can be of use.
- Prepare a political resolution for the Spring 2015 Council on: how do we Greens propose to deal with populism and what are our answers to their political discourse?. A plenary debate with expert speakers will be organised at the Spring 2015 Council.

3. Method

A small core-writing group will convene at least three times. This core group will discuss the issue and divide tasks with the aim to produce a end result by the Spring 2015 Council. This group will be lead by Saraswati Matthieu from the EGP Committee and Jan Philip Albrecht, MEP, from the Greens/EFA in the European Parliament.

List of participants

- Jan Philip Albrecht, MEP, Germany
- Saraswati Matthieu, EGP, Belgium
- Dick Pels, The Netherlands
- Rui Tavares, Portugal
- Jean Lamberts, MEP, UK
- Edouard Gaudot, Advisor GGEP, France
- Marina Barbalata, GEF
- Krassina Demireva, FYEG
- Oliviero Alotto, Italy
- Ulrike Lunacek, MEP, Austria

Annex 2 to the Draft Activities Plan 2015

Green Climate Campaign 2015

I. Context

Much attention in the international sphere as regards climate change will focus on the COP 21 Climate Summit in Paris at the end of 2015. Although the experience with previous climate summits and particularly the one in Copenhagen in 2009 have taught us not to invest too much hope into what climate diplomacy will be able to deliver at such an event, European Greens will use the increased public conversation about climate change to mobilize and to re-invigorate the climate movement as best we can. We want to make this a continuous effort throughout the year leading up to COP 21. Fighting climate change is one of the most important if not the most important responsibility for the global environmental movement in this decade, and the time until the year 2020 will be decisive. Over the years since 2008 the movement against climate change has lost steam and had to fight many defensive battles. European member states as well as the EU have clearly lost ambition and resolve. The new majorities in the European Parliament will certainly provide us with a great challenge while we want to continue promoting ambitious climate goals, adequate policies and good implementation. Mobilizing civil society is therefore of utmost relevance. To that end we will endeavor to build alliances and coalitions, to develop new strategies and to win the support of a new generation.

In our climate change campaign we will inform about the reality of climate change as it is making itself felt today, impacting and endangering many people around the globe in very severe ways. We will describe the multiple threat dimensions that unmitigated climate change would imply. We will also argue, that taking measures to limit climate change apart from avoiding such dangers will help building sustainable economies particularly pursuing energy and resource efficiencies. We will demonstrate how our energy transition will help securing the basis for social justice and fairness. We will highlight the municipal and regional dimensions of acting against climate change, thus bringing the struggle close to the people. We will connect the struggles against shale gas fracking with the climate change issue. We will use the attention for the necessity to reduce energy dependency as an opportunity for our agenda of energy transition. And we will help building a Europe wide carbon divestment movement in order to avoid falling victim to the carbon bubble, and to promote a fossil phase out.

2. Aims and Objectives

- bring climate change back to the top of the European agenda
- help breaking the blockade against ambitious climate policies in the EU and member states
- show how people can become game changers in their region/city/daily life
- position the European Greens in the center of the debate
- make European Greens visible as very active part of the broad civic movement
- communicate a strong and coherent Green message for COP 21 and beyond

3. Cooperation

We will seek successful cooperation within the European Green family, with our partners in the Global Greens and with civil society actors. The Green Group in the European Parliament, led by the Climate Core Group, has already made clear that it will work intensely on the issues starting this November. The EGP Committee together with the Climate Core Group will set up a Climate Campaign Coordination of not more than 9 people with support from EGP staff focused mainly on providing and exchanging information, on offering campaign support to member parties and on liaising with partners in the climate movement. EGP member parties, FYEG, Global Greens and GEF will be integrated in that effort.

4. Campaign tools

Building on the experience of the common Green European election campaign, the EGP will offer an adaptable and flexible tool box and/or help promoting useful tools that member parties or other actors have developed. Our tool box will have a strong focus on social media. We will help with translating good materials in as many European languages as possible. As far as possible EGP will offer support to member parties for organizing major events. Working on the climate campaign will be the foremost task of the EGP campaign consultant. We will put a particular focus on tools for local and regional mobilization and we do intend to involve local green leaders actively in the campaign.

5. Relevant dates

Date	Event
23-24 October 2014	EU Council meeting on Climate and Energy
31 October 2014	IPCC Synthesis Report 2014
7-9 November 2014	EGP Council: Green climate campaign as a topic for discussion
Post-Autumn Council	Formation of Climate Campaign Coordination
28 November 2014 (tbc)	Greens/EFA conference on COP21 in Paris
First days of December (tbc)	Citizens' mobilization
1-12 December 2014	COP20 in Lima
Late 2014	First seminar on green climate campaign
18-19 December 2014	EU Council meeting
12-13 February 2015	EU Council meeting
11 March 2015	4th anniversary Fukushima nuclear disaster
19-20 March 2015	EU Council meeting
22 April 2015	Earth Day
26 April 2015	29th anniversary Chernobyl nuclear disaster
5 June 2015	UN World Environment Day
25-26 June 2015	EU Council meeting
30 Nov - 11 Dec 2015	COP21 in Paris

Annex 3 to the Draft Activities Plan 2015

EGP Working Group on GREEN NEW DEAL

1. The aim/objective of the working group GND is to provide member parties with a possibility to get informed, exchange, discuss, elaborate the Green economic proposals regarding job creation and investment through the Green New Deal, concentrating of course on the EU dimension of it, but also taking stock of the different national situations, when relevant. The final aim is to update and spread our common proposals to change EU policies in these areas. Cooperation with the Green Group is crucial.

2. The target group are mainly the member parties. We should open this work also beyond Green members, when we organise initiatives or events.

3. The working method should be open and pedagogic. But also focused at periodically elaborating position papers which should then be diffused (jobs, industry, social, etc...). More then ever, we should aim also at making the maximum number of parties, militants and stakeholders to enter in a conversation with us on these questions. We were not yet able to become mainstream with our economic proposals, we should aim at making it more convincing and credible. The editorial board method could be used, but only when there is a text to be voted at the Council, since the goal is to be as inclusive as possible.

4. The WG will produce Policy papers and all relevant material that could make them ready and easy to use and spread.

5. Time frame / timeline activities

Spring Council 2015, with the adoption of a policy paper. After that, we could decide whether to go on or not.

6. Specific region/country/member party?

Our main added value is to elaborate proposals that can be interesting for all; even if many parties have different sensitivities, it is important to keep the discussion common. We should even make a political point out of this: for example, having a northern European green understanding and valuing in his/her national context a set of proposals out of strict austerity in the south of Europe, could give more quality and substance to his/her political offer.

Annex 4 to the Draft Activities Plan 2015

PRIORITIES ON GENDER FOR THE EGP 2014-2015

We would like to develop three events for the present mandate with regard to the Gender issues.

1. Comparison legislative state of play of reproductive rights in the different member states. Are we going backwards?

As you may know, there is a threat of important steps back with regards to sexual and reproductive rights among many countries in Europe; concretely, with the right of abortion. This step back on women's rights to decide about their own body, represents a direct aggression to their rights and freedom. We will address this topic in the Gender workshop planned in the Istanbul Council.

The comparison of the different legislative realities will be a good example of where we stand in the different countries and where there are potential gaps and initiatives that could be tackled at European level in order to work towards the social Europe we claim for.

We have invited the Turkish Greens, the Spanish Greens and the Irish Greens and have planned to allow enough time for discussion. MEPs in the FEMM commission will also be attending the workshop.

2. Presentation of the Gender Equality Index by the European Institute for Gender Equality.

We have asked the EIGE (European Institute for Gender Equality), the only official European Institution working on gender issues, to present the index they elaborate on the gender equality state of play along the whole Europe.

The index is very valuable information that can help to concrete and clarify further political demands and positions.

It is planned to have an event around 8 March 2015, to be co-organised with the GGEP. Two MEPs, member of the FEMM commission, Monika Vana and Ernest Urtasun, will host the event.

3. Gender priorities with the GGEP.

We plan to focus the Gender workshop of the Spring Council 2015 on the political priorities that should be established for the next mandate together with the GGEP.

As we know, it won't be until November 2014 that the GGEP will finalise their priorities for the next mandate. We want to give room to the Gender Network to have a political discussion about them and to give its opinion and suggest possible topics that could also be addressed from an institutional perspective.

4. Gender and climate change. A gender perspective when facing COP 21.

Taking into account our next Climate Change campaign, we would like to explore the connection between climate change and gender.

There have been published different papers from the UN. Also the GGEP with Nicole Kiil-Nielsen lead a report on "Women and climate change".

GREEN CITIES: HOW WE ACT LOCALLY TO CHANGE EUROPE

We propose that “Green Cities” should become an EGP priority topic for the year 2015. The Committee should take the responsibility for convoking a small working group that would be entrusted with coordinating the planning of an EGP conference on “Green Cities” in 2015.

It should also coordinate the development of a position paper preparing that conference. It should support the Committee in drafting a resolution on “Green Cities” possibly to be voted at the Autumn Council 2015. The position paper and the resolution should focus on the big green challenges that cities all over Europe are facing together.

The WG shall gather experience from different corners of Europe including in particular participants from the Local Councilors Network.

The conference on “Green Cities” should preferably be organized in a city where Greens are part of the majority; it should be designed to host up to 400 participants.

In parallel to the work of the working group we also want to include the online dimension of a lively exchange of experiences between Green municipal actors in different countries. We will seek cooperation with municipal actors in order to check whether there is demand and support for a regular “Green Cities” newsletter.

We are convinced that municipalities play a vital role for the necessary green transition that we are all fighting for. In many cases they have been and will be a major engine of change. This concerns different dimensions of Green policy making: from climate and energy policy, mobility city development, housing and social cohesion, to the economic and cultural dimensions of green transformation.

For years the Green Councilors Network has already worked to promote and coordinate these efforts. We want to give this new emphasis in 2015. At the local level Greens are often stronger than they might be in the national context; at the local level grassroots movements spring up and push innovative concepts and practices; at the local level different policy areas overlap and intersect offering particular opportunities for innovative and creative green solutions; at the local level good governance and popular democracy with an active role for citizens have a particularly great potential.

This is why putting a focus on green cities can help strengthening the green family all over Europe.