



Minutes of the 37th Extraordinary EGP Congress, Vienna, 2-3 June 2023

As adopted at the Online 38th EGP Congress, 2 December 2023

Friday, 2 June 2023

Nadine Cobbina animates intermittently as Congress host. Welcoming everybody to the 37th Congress of the European Greens, stating this will be key for the strategy of the next European elections.

Plenary

Opening Session

13:30-14:15

Speakers:

- **Thomas Waitz**, Co-Chair of the European Green Party
- **Alma Zadić**, Minister of Justice, Austria
- **Werner Kogler**, Federal Spokesperson of Die Grünen – Die Grüne Alternative, Austria

Thomas Waitz: Introduces and welcomes all the parties, ministers and guests present today. He praises the efforts made and successes reached in the past elections. He highlights the recent major push backs against the Green Deal and condemns the instrumental use of the Russian invasion of Ukraine to stop the Green Deal – specifically by conservative groups allying with fascists and far-right parties, who want to reinvest in industrial agriculture. He states that everybody should pay their fair share, including multinationals and rich people.

Alma Zadić: States how difficult the times are that we are living in, with multiple crises going on. Remembers the 24th of February 2022 when Putin's war of aggression on Ukraine started. But the response by the European Union has been strong and united in standing behind Ukraine. She affirms the need to hold Putin accountable because there will be no peace without justice. And

she states the need to get rid of fossil gas and fossil fuels; appreciates all the important work done by member parties and activists in setting the agenda and bringing action to shape national, EU and global policies.

She stresses the need for a peaceful, democratic and strengthened Europe; enlarging the European Union to the Balkans, strengthening global alliances for democratisation all over Europe and the world, strengthening democracy and the rule of law in our countries, particularly fighting corruption to strengthen the trust in democracy and politicians, particularly from the young people. She concludes by addressing the green friends as the change-makers of tomorrow.

Werner Kogler: Stresses the importance of strong Greens all around the Europe Union to deliver social justice in a green future. Looking at the past years of the Austrian Greens, starting from the dramatic time in 2017 after dropping out of the parliament and the re-bounce in 2019 when they came back stronger. States that the current coalition was necessary to avoid a government coalition with the far-right. States that the Austrian Greens have achieved a lot in terms of climate and environment protection, as well as transparency.

Plenary

A Secure Future for All: The Green Transformation of Our Energy Systems

14:15-15:45

Moderator: **Thomas Waitz**, Co-Chair of the European Green Party

Speakers:

- **Leonore Gewessler**, Federal Minister for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology, Austria
- **Virginijus Sinkevičius**, European Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries
- **Maria Ohisalo**, Minister for Environment and Climate Change, Finland
- **Benedetta Scuderi**, Co-Spokesperson of the Federation of Young European Greens
- **Michał Smoleń**, Head of Energy and Climate Research, Instrat, Warsaw

Thomas Waitz explains the changed angle of the panel towards the Green Deal due to recent developments and invites the Commissioner to give opening remarks.

Virginijus Sinkevičius says that during the previous elections there was a marathon race of who is “greener” but now we find ourselves in a situation where some big parties are rejecting the Green Deal. He brings up threats of climate change and underlines that, unlike with other threats, there can be no one good solution that will rescue us like the vaccine for Covid. There are voices that nature protection will hamper renewables but that is not true. He explains that Repower EU’s main goal was always about reducing the energy demand rather than push for more energy supply. 2022 was a record year for the sale of renewables. He brings up biomass and the huge usage in Europe which causes the degradation of nature, so he poses for a new model of biomass policy. He also mentions how we need to get ahead of the raw material issue by recycling. Finally, we need to ensure to include the indigenous populations in the process as development was used against them in the past.

Thomas then invites Benedetta to speak about the youth movement.

Benedetta Scuderi states we already now see the catastrophic events that we were expecting to see in 2040, or 2050 and worries what events we can expect in 2040 or 2050; Either we start adaptation now on a European level, or we will be too late. Solidarity is key in the adaptation within Europe. If we keep investing into gas, we won't reach the climate goals. Greens need to ensure a just transition not just for Europe but for the whole world, which means a green transition together with indigenous communities and the global south.

Thomas invites the next speakers by shifting from the EU to the practical level.

Leonore Gewessler states it is not such a difficult task to introduce the change to circular economy and renewables because we have all the solutions at hand. Talking about the complexity is used as an argument not to start the process, while we can just finish discussing and start implementing. This was done in Austria and now they have a variety of successful climate solutions. The issue now is the backlash that is coming after the success, by people with a vested interest in slowing down the transition.

Maria Ohisalo says that despite the long history of Greens promoting the climate solutions we are losing some support of people who think that they no longer need the Greens. We need to remind that Greens have the best combination of climate solutions that takes all aspects into consideration. She mentions that despite the positive voices from NGOs showing successes of their government, then it is not reflected in results because Greens get blamed for all climate-related issues. There are solutions for the current problems plaguing us, but we need the political support for these solutions. Left/socialist parties are open to climate solutions but not to rethink the entire social support system.

Thomas asks Michał how we can include more parts of society into this transition, as it seems the more real it becomes the less support it receives.

Michał Smoleń says that we see massive progress with renewables, cars and many parts of the transition being done, however, this is all progress from within the system. We are slowly introducing the change by moving in the same system towards slightly Greener and even this small change receives strong pushback. We need to plant seeds for a future change of the whole system alongside the small changes that we introduce from within the system.

Thomas invites the participants to discuss among each other what they are willing to give up to further the green transition and then asks the floor to share their findings: there is readiness to give up on a lot of aspects of life to further the transition, but giving up on mobile phones is not one of them.

Thomas says that the transition has a two-fold responsibility; individual and systemic. He asks the panellists how much the Commission is listening to the citizens in comparison to the lobbyists. He asks the ministers what they think should be the balance between these responsibilities.

Commissioner Sinkevičius says the decision-making process is not the biggest issue. He points to the era in which we live, where the word of any populist on social media is worth the same as that of a scientist. It is vital to increase the reach of our messages to show people that the real danger to our food security is loss of biodiversity, not the nature restoration.

Maria finds the systemic change is the one that really matters. We need to ensure that we don't blame the individuals when the system is at fault. For example, farmers are not at the heart of the issue, it's the lobbies and institutions which push against the green transition.

Leonore says that there is a big gap between the resistance from the individuals and the lobbies. When we introduce these changes there is a lot of resistance that is being exploited by populists. It is vital to speak directly to the people in understandable terms what are the steps for a green transition and what we need to do.

Thomas asks Michal for his recommendation how to strengthen the ties between scientists and Greens.

Michał underlines that we are just a part of the change. We need to extend our reach by working with all different parts of society. He also says it is vital to have transparency when introducing the transition because that supports the NGOs in building a counter-narrative to the misinformation.

Thomas says we need to combine our strength to win these next European Elections and asks Benedetta what she thinks we need to keep the ties between the different actors.

Benedetta mentions that the climate movement has changed and while there are still actions, the hope within the movement is waning. In order to keep the connection, we need to ensure that the youth is part of the decision-making process instead of just letting them know what is being done. We also need to stop the far right as they are the direct enemy of the climate movement.

Thomas closes with the assurance that together we will manage to end these 2024 elections with a huge success.

Plenary

Presentation of the Candidates for FAB and AMC & Presentation of membership applications

19:00-20:00

Moderators:

- **Benedetta De Marte**, EGP Secretary General
- **Rasmus Nordqvist**, EGP Committee Member
- **Paraskevi/Vula Tsetsi**, EGP Committee Member
- **Małgorzata Tracz**, EGP Committee Member

Presentation of Candidates: Amendments Committee & Financial Advisory Board

Benedetta De Marte starts the session. **Rasmus Nordqvist** calls the two candidates for the Financial Advisory Board to the stage.

Mária Szabóné Szendefy from LMP Hungary presents her candidacy, showcasing her professional background and the reason why she wants to join the Finance Advisory Board, citing the transparency that led her to join LMP.

Maura Rose McMahon from the Irish Green Party presents her candidacy which is based on her experience as CEO, her being highly qualified academically and because of her passionate membership of the Irish Greens for 30 years.

Rasmus Nordqvist opens the floor for questions, but no questions are asked.

Rasmus reminds there are two open seats in the Amendments Committee. No female candidates came forward. Rasmus then calls Antoine Tifine as the only candidate for the open seats to the stage. **Antoine Tifine** from EELV France presents his candidacy, explaining he has been active in the French Greens and FYEG for several years, and stressing the reliability of his work within the European Green family.

Rasmus opens the floor for questions, but no questions are asked.

Benedetta explains that for the open female seat the Committee will co-opt someone to occupy the seat in the AMC until the end of the term (end of 2024) and asks the delegates to present their interest/proposals to the EGP.

Presentation of Candidacies for new membership status

Vula Tsetsi briefly presents the application of **LIVRE from Portugal** with the positive recommendation from the EGP Committee, and calls Rui Tavares, Paulo Muacho, Patrícia Robalo and Patrícia Gonçalves to the floor.

Rui Tavares takes the floor, explaining the history of the establishment of LIVRE in 2014, its ideology and internal structures.

Vula opens the floor for questions. **Christina Kessler** from FYEG asks LIVRE about potential plans for establishing a youth wing. **Paulo Muacho** explains that the internal debate at the foundation of LIVRE came out negative, because for now there is no real need as the average age of the members is low. **Tímea Szabó** from Párbeszéd Hungary takes the floor to thank Rui Tavares for his work on the rule of law in Hungary. **Wanja Kaufmann** from Swedish Greens asks about LIVRE's relationship with Os Verdes and PAN. **Patrícia Robalo** explains that LIVRE has always wished to join the EGP, and they've always been respectful towards Os Verdes and their work, and cooperative with PAN on the local level; in general LIVRE will always work cooperatively with any other parties, including the two mentioned. LIVRE was also asked what they find the most exciting about joining the EGP. **Patrícia Gonçalves** explains that joining the EGP has always been a goal, and that it will allow Portuguese people to directly vote to a Green party in Portugal.

Małgorzata Tracz briefly presents the application of **Párbeszéd - A Zöldek Pártja** from Hungary as associate member with the positive recommendation from the EGP.

Tímea Szabó presents the party, including the fact that Párbeszéd has the Mayor of Budapest and several other locally elected representatives, besides a parliamentary group. **Tímea** and **Benedek** explain that EGP membership is important to support the fight for democracy in the Hungarian political scene.

Małgorzata opens the floor for questions. No questions were asked.

Vula briefly presents the application of **PAN** from Portugal for associate membership, with a positive recommendation from the EGP Committee.

Inês de Sousa Real presents the party, explaining its evolution, expansion around the country and achievements during the last years.

Vula opens the floor for questions. **Wanja Kaufmann** from Swedish Greens asks for PAN to explain their relation with Os Verdes and LIVRE, and asks the EGP Committee to share their vision about 3 parties from the same country. **Rafael Pinto** explains that PAN is a party of dialogue, including towards the two parties in the EGP. Co-Chair **Mélanie Vogel** states that the Committee finds the two parties are aligned with the EGP. They have different electorates and they work in a constructive way. Os Verdes is also not competing with LIVRE and PAN and there is goodwill around all parties, which was also confirmed by all third actors that were consulted during the fact-finding mission. Co-Chair **Thomas Waitz** asks PAN about their representation in the national parliament. **Rafael Pinto** explains that PAN has one very active MP which resulted in growing support for the party.

Małgorzata briefly presents the application of **VESNA – Zelena Stranka** from Slovenia as associate member which also has a positive recommendation from the EGP Committee.

Urša Zgojznik and **Klemen Belhar** present the reasons for the founding of VESNA and their electoral development in the several elections that happened in 2022. They are joined on the stage by Uroš Macerl, Jasminka Dedić and Robert Godina.

Małgorzata opens the floor for questions. **Wanja Kaufmann** asks about the negative position of SMS and the reactions of VESNA and EGP Committee. **Thomas Waitz** explains that some work needs to be done for the cooperation to exist, but VESNA has a good potential for positive developments at the national level. **Klemen** adds that the goal of VESNA is to run in all elections and cooperate with other parties. **Igor Jurisic** from SMS Zeleni Evrope notes that he has personal respect for the leadership of VESNA yet he asks delegates to abstain and not allow VESNA to join as a member in this Congress. **Maria Kola** from Cyprus Greens asks why VESNA activists chose to form a new party instead of joining the existing one. **Urša** answers that when she was president of an environmental NGO she never felt other parties in the Slovenian political scene to be allies to the Green cause.

Benedetta ends the session saying that all applications have the support of the EGP Committee and will be voted tomorrow.

Plenary

Presentation voting business

20:00-20:30

Moderators:

- **Sibylle Steffan**, EGP Committee Member
- **Mina Jack Tolu**, EGP Committee Member

Mina Jack Tolu and **Sibylle Steffan** take the floor to present the tabled resolutions. They ask each of the tabling parties to briefly present their resolutions.

Rebecka Le Moine from Miljöpartiet de gröna Sweden presents resolution 1 "For actions against trade with endangered species". The resolution aims to tackle illegal trade of endangered species which she hopes is not controversial within the Greens.

Victor Cavaco from Os Verdes Portugal presents resolution 2 "Fighting water crisis and saving Rivers and Natural Water Bodies From Drought and Mismanagement", which was co-written with the Greens of Greece, Italy, Slovenia and Malta. The aim is to tackle the ongoing water crisis.

Beata Bilska from Zieloni Poland presents resolution 3 "Green and science-based approach to cannabis law in Europe", co-tabled with Luxembourgish and German Greens. The goal is to give a new approach to a cannabis law that ends the negative impacts of prohibition.

Benoit Bourges from EELV France presents resolution 4 "For a modern and ambitious EU economic governance and common fiscal policy". The aim is to give a stronger economic vision for the European Greens.

Benedetta Scuderi from FYEG presents resolution 5 "Sustainable and Just Wellbeing Economies for People and Planet". The aim is to deliver an economic system that is people-focused instead of growth-focused.

Thomas Jans from Groen Belgium presents resolution 6 "The Prohibition of Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems", co-tabled by both Belgian Greens as well as Luxembourgish and Dutch Greens. The resolution aims to tackle the problems with accountability, ethical considerations and proliferations with such systems and that is aligned with the work from the Greens in the European Parliament.

Thomas Waitz Co-Chair of the EGP presents the resolution "Towards the EU elections 2024: the Green vision and the Green campaign". The resolution offers an inclusive process from the European Greens towards the 2024 European elections.

Mélanie Vogel Co-Chair of the EGP presents the resolution "Leading the Green Success in 2024: procedure for the 2024 EGP leading candidates". The resolutions sets the democratic procedures and timeline to elect the 2024 leading candidates of the European Greens.

Christina Kessler from FYEG presents the resolution "Closing the Age Gap in Politics - Prioritising Young Candidates for the 2024 EP elections". The resolution aims to reaffirm the role of young people and calls on all member parties to put young candidates forward, also on electable spots.

Shrishagon Abraham from FYEG presents the resolution "The EU has a diversity and inclusion problem! It's high time for change. Let's be that change!". The resolution aims to be a steppingstone for Greens to look at racial justice and to raise awareness within the Green family to look inside at its own lack of diversity.

Benedetta De Marte Secretary General of the EGP Committee presents the resolution "European Political Parties must remain pan-European!". The resolution aims to show the Green position of equality between EU and non-EU parties faced with the division promoted by the Council of the European Union.

Sybille ends the session thanking all the parties that tabled resolutions.

Saturday, 3 June 2023

Session for the Congress Delegates

Finance reporting

11:30 – 12:00

Speakers:

- **Ute Michel**, EGP Treasurer
- **Christian Kmiotek**, member of the Financial Advisory Board (FAB)

Ute Michel starts by reporting on the audit of EGP accounts 2022. The auditor Grant Thornton Belgium has issued the audit report with unqualified opinion.

Ute informs the Congress that the second part of the financial reporting duty of the EGP, the International Financial Reporting Standard (IFRS) report, has been finalized and adopted by the EGP Committee.

In 2022 we have resumed hosting big in-person events: the Local Councillors Conference in Valencia, the Spring Council in Riga in June and the Copenhagen Congress in December. But the Covid pandemic has also had a lasting impact on our activities and ways of working: more home office working arrangements are in place, travel and meeting costs have increased considerably, more frequent online meetings and continued use of different digital formats developed during the pandemic.

Overall, we increased expenditure from nearly 4,06 million EUR in 2022 to 6,21 million EUR in 2023. The EP grant increased from €4.347.644 to €4.477.434. On the income side, the dissolution from funds was lower than budgeted. Membership fees were paid by all EU member parties. She continues by presenting the actual numbers by category of income and expenditure.

No amendments have been submitted to the EGP accounts 2022 to be voted on. The accounts 2022 are presented to the Council for approval as drafted. Hence, the Committee proposes to the 37th EGP Congress on 2-3 June 2022 to adopt the accounts 2022. This includes: dissolving 175.000 EUR from the Congress Fund and allocating 100.000 EUR to the Campaign Fund, as previously decided by the Online Council, 4 December 2021, as well as allocating 67.190,3 EUR to the Operational Reserve, and deciding on a carry-over to 2023 of 1.382.268,72 EUR.

Ute points out that following the closing of the accounts 2022 and audit, the total carry-over stands at 1.382.269 EUR, and therefore it is necessary for the Extraordinary Congress in Vienna to adopt a revised budget 2023. Ute Michel outlines the proposed changes. There were no amendments submitted to the draft revised budget 2023.

Ute provides the participants with the brief outlook of 2024, as well as the developments on the triologue negotiations regarding the recast of Regulation 1141/2014.

Ute presents the draft campaign budget 2023 and informs the Congress that there were no amendments submitted to this draft document.

Christian gives a statement on behalf of the Finance Advisory Board (FAB). FAB did not perform physical checks but followed the financial deliberations online. FAB recommends to the Congress to approve the Accounts 2022, draft revised budget 2023 and draft campaign budget 2023 as presented.

Session for the Congress Delegates

Membership reporting

12:00 – 12:30

Speaker:

- Benedetta De Marte, EGP Secretary General

Benedetta welcomes the delegates and starts the Membership and Activity Report presentation, which begins with the activities the European Green Party (EGP) conducted with its Member Parties. Next, she outlines the outcomes of the first Green Leadership Council to the audience and lists all the exchanges EGP Committee members had with Member Parties since the 6th EGP Congress in Copenhagen at the end of 2022.

Then **Benedetta** outlines the activities of the Networks of EGP since the Copenhagen Congress and introduces the developments regarding the Green Campaign Handbook and Tilt.

In the third part of the presentation **Benedetta** introduces the delegates to the plans of the EGP at the upcoming Global Greens Congress in South Korea and presents updates on the work of the Campaign Working Group, the Editorial Working Group and the Manifesto Working Group which EGP established ahead of the 2024 European Parliamentary elections, including organising a consultative session with civil society organisations on the EGP's developing electoral manifesto. She highlights the schedule of the upcoming meetings of the above-mentioned Working Groups and of the Communication Network of the European Greens and the Greens/EFA Group in the European Parliament.

Finally, **Benedetta** mentions the potential changes in the membership of EGP to be voted on later during the day. This includes the applications of four new parties (one for Full and three for Associate Membership) and the re-categorisation of existing member parties into new categories in line with the changes adopted during the Copenhagen Congress to the Rule Book and Statutes of the EGP.

Following the presentation, **Benedetta** opens the floor for questions.

GPEW representative: What is the difference between rights and responsibilities of Associate Members and Full Members?

Benedetta explains that Associate Members cannot participate in decision-making. They cannot table motions or amendments, cannot stand candidates for EGP bodies and cannot vote. The other main difference is in the membership fees due.

Plenary

Manifesto Deliberations: Exploring European Challenges and Party Positions

11:30 – 13:30

EGP Co-Chair Mélanie Vogel introduces Jan Philipp Albrecht.

Keynote: Jan Philipp Albrecht, President of the Heinrich Böll Foundation

Jan-Philipp Albrecht reflects on the significance of literature and the role of writers in society. He highlights the work of Heinrich Böll, who supported free press and democracy in its literature. The author's thoughts on global solidarity and the interconnectedness of political causes are discussed, linking them to current global challenges. **Albrecht** mentions an upcoming march against autocracy in Warsaw as an example of how democratic movements are alive in Europe. He introduces the Heinrich Böll Foundation (HBS) as a German foundation with a global reach, focusing on shaping society in a Green way and supporting political activism. **Albrecht** emphasises the need to reinvent Europe's economic model, ramp up decarbonisation, and ensure participation in the transformation process. He proposes the creation of a new Community for Renewables and Solidarity, drawing a parallel to the Community of Coal and Steel. He discusses the need to connect transformation and new wealth with solidarity and participation, suggesting changes to the European treaties to fulfil the EU's promises. **Albrecht** mentions their visit to the US and highlights the exciting ideas and inclusivity of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). He contrasts the IRA with the limitations of EU competences and advocates for clear social standards and taxing in the EU. **Albrecht** calls for raising these issues in both European and national elections to effect change and suggests focusing on new ideas and proposals at the national level.

Breakout group 1: Green Industry and Trade

Introduction to the thematic scope of this discussion is given by **Sibylle Steffan**, EGP Committee. And a presentation is given by **Ignacio Arroniz Velasco**, Researcher on Trade and Climate, E3G Third Generation Environmentalism.

Ignacio Arroniz Velasco discusses the changing narratives and politics around trade, focusing on the relationship between trade and climate. The first change highlighted is the shift towards viewing trade and climate as a defensive issue, aiming to protect Europe from carbon leakage and maintain competitiveness. The second change is the transition from a regulatory state to a developmental state, similar to elements observed in China. The tension between the US and China is influencing the conversation towards targeted decoupling, which is part of the US national security strategy. Concerns arise regarding the impact of these changes on the green economy and the need for industrial policy to address these challenges. The European Union's response has been improvised and lacking in comprehensive understanding, with a focus on the effects on Europe rather than a global approach. **Velasco** emphasises the importance of maintaining climate focus, deploying renewables rapidly, and addressing convergence issues to

ensure that both rich and poor countries benefit from the transition. Global partnerships, including supply chains, technology transfers, and clean tech collaboration, are essential for successful implementation and sustainability. **Velasco** suggests that Europe has a role in maintaining the cohesion of the climate alliance worldwide.

The discussion that follows covers various topics related to the Green transition and trade policies in Europe. Participants highlight the diverse stages of European states regarding renewables, with smaller countries like Cyprus facing challenges in adopting solar energy due to limited space. They emphasise the need to preserve agricultural land while promoting renewable energy and advocate for EU funds to be allocated to research and partnerships with industrial companies. The conversation touches on the importance of formulating a clear approach toward countries in the Global South and how to overcome anti-transition narratives. Participants also discuss the role of the state in industrial transition, the need for regulatory clarity, and the promotion of sustainable and circular economies. The impact of trade policies on climate change and biodiversity, as well as the role of narratives and the need for political groundwork, are also highlighted.

Breakout group 2: Energy and Electricity Market

Vula Tsetsi, EGP Committee Member and Secretary General of Greens/EFA in EP moderates this discussion. Introductory speaker is **Naomi Chevillard** Head of Regulatory Affairs at SolarPower Europe.

Naomi provides an introduction to the energy market, highlighting its complexity and the challenges of storing electricity. She discusses the Commission's reinforcement of market surveillance and presents the concept of contracts of difference as a method of price cap and investment in renewables. The importance of the long-term market for attracting investments in renewables is emphasised, while the regulation of contracts for consumers is seen as necessary.

The participants discuss the urgent need to transition the EU's electricity market in response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, with a focus on reducing energy dependency on authoritarian regimes. The reform should address not only decarbonisation but also high prices and ensure affordable living conditions for all households. Various mechanisms and tools are explored, including price caps, social tariffs, a climate dividend, decoupling gas and electricity, and promoting citizen participation in energy production and sales; with the goal to achieve a fairer electricity market in both the short and long term. The participants emphasise the importance of communicating these policies effectively, delivering a social agenda, and protecting the most vulnerable groups. They also discuss the evaluation of EU measures, the role of regulation, and the need to design direct income support for the vulnerable and reduce the CO2 footprint without increasing costs.

Various issues are raised, including the empowerment of consumers, the balance between reducing the CO2 footprint and preserving nature, and the promotion of citizen energy projects. There are discussions on subsidies, social tariffs, taxation systems, and the need for a more flexible grid. The meeting concludes with a focus on the need for concrete and accessible communication, as well as the importance of EU-level solutions and changes to the taxation system for a more social Europe.

Breakout group 3: EU enlargement

Mélanie Vogel, Co-Chair EGP Committee moderates this discussion. Introductory speaker is **Gwendoline Delbos-Corfield**, MEP for EELV in Greens/EFA in EP.

Mélanie reflects on what narrative do Greens have on EU enlargement and she states we are in a context of empty but still existing initiatives of Macron.

Gwendoline: the war in Ukraine changed the situation. Though now more member states are agreeing that Ukraine should enter the EU, it was only Macron himself who came out with this idea of doing this within two years. However, we are not ready for this enlargement at the moment. For example, looking at the CAP and Ukraine (e.g. Poland saying that they don't want Ukrainian products coming into the single market as easily).

She sees three levels of discussions:

- Those who are in an accession process, what do we do with them?
- Those we are making promises to (e.g. Ukraine, Georgia) what solution do we provide to them?
- How do we keep improving internally? How to solve the problem of governance (e.g. unanimity issue with actors such as Orban)

The floor is then opened for discussion. Contributions include: Allowing one country to veto an accession process is not helpful; multiple participants share the view that unanimity in the Council should be changed. An accelerated procedure will create tensions between the Balkans and Eastern European countries. The security issue is important for neighbouring countries. For Greens it should be important to also include the "enlargement of the European projects" so its values like democracy, human rights and the rule of law and not only to become a militarised place to get away from Putin. We should then have an institutional response as well as a human response. We need to link the enlargement with the institutional reform of the EU. We need to end unanimity when it comes to taxation and foreign security policy. Scotland is a long way from independence, but one of the best things that the EU Greens should show Scotland is that it can be back and welcome in the EU.

Mélanie: we need reform of unanimity behind the enlargement. Then we need to find a narrative that helps us to put them together. Anti-European left in France used the argument of "we're going to lose progressive majority if we enlarge to other countries" – but now we see that anti-European majorities are built even inside the EU. Our position on enlargement should not be based on which "majority" will be built depending on the country that enters.

Gwendoline: we should talk with the people, include the civil society, not only with the governments, of the countries that are potentially new members. The debate on two EU Speed Europe is dangerous: opening to the single market (economic benefits of EU) without having to follow the rule of laws and fundamental rights.

Mélanie summarises: the EU project is attractive. We could think about a status "on the way to EU membership" that will help and give incentive to enter the EU. We agree that we need to work on EU institutional reform at the same time as doing work on enlargement.

Plenary

Just Transition: Towards a Green Economy and a Social Union

15:30 – 17:00

Moderator: **Judith Pühringer**

Speakers:

- **Johannes Rauch**, Federal Minister for Social Affairs, Health, Care & Consumer Protection, Austria
- **Mélanie Vogel**, Co-Chair of the European Green Party
- **Kadi Kenk**, Circularity projects, societal change management expert, Responsible Business Forum Estonia
- **Ernest Urtasun**, Member of the European Parliament, Greens/EFA in EP

Judith presents the topic and introduces the panellists. Asks Ernest about his vision of a Just Transition.

Ernest Urtasun highlights the importance of a strong social angle in the Just Transition for the Green Deal to be successful; creating a better distribution, fixing the taxation system, including the making-polluters-pay principle and tackle tax havens. We need to phase out from fossil fuels as well as from precarious jobs and the new forms of precariousness like platform work to create decent jobs. He underlines the *global* component of the just transition.

Judith: Asks Johannes about his experience of being in coalition with the conservatives.

Johannes Rauch: Remarks that having a just transition in a coalition with conservative forces is *in part* possible. Carbon pricing is now on the agenda thanks to their work with the 30€ per ton of CO₂ as the starting point. He argues that this is a paradigm shift in Austria. If we do not answer the poverty of the population, like tackling inflation which in Austria is now at 10%, we will not only lose those persons as voters but also as members of society.

Judith: Asks Mélanie where the political or institutional structures need to be adapted to deliver a Just Transition.

Mélanie Vogel: We need to reform certain rules at the EU level to make it faster and more efficient to have social policies, like having more competences in social issues at the European level. Stresses how enacting social policies is largely a matter of political will and that social justice is an aim in itself.

Judith: Asks Kadi how we can convince governments and business to contribute to the Just Transition.

Kadi Kenk: Engage with the audience stating that there is no easy answer to this question because there are no simple solutions to complex problems. She argues that we need to let people understand we have a problem without providing a solution but showing that we are up to that challenge.

Judith: Asks Mélanie, Ernest and Johannes how we can get people to participate and be engaged in the political agenda.

Mélanie: We have to strengthen social bargaining, like the Unions in France who are organising the recent mass wave of protests and have increased their members. We need to campaign for new equal social rights that are very concrete for people. She reflects on the fact that the most marginalised people in society are probably not present in the room, so we need to work internally on our diversity.

Ernest Urtasun adds that the European welfare state is one of the most important projects built in Europe. So, if now democracy is weak, that is because our social welfare system is not working. He brings the example of Spain's economic policies in 2011 which included market reforms and the use of temporary jobs, however without positive results for the economy. At the same time, this created a big democratic problem. The last reform of the labour market was positive for the people and has led to better economic performance.

Johannes Rauch: Involving people in political participation is one of the most important questions nowadays. Democracy is in danger as shown in a poll according to which not many people in Austria believe in democracy. However, the "Austrian Climate Council Process" is a good practice of citizen participation. It is based on demographic clusters of people who have been chosen randomly to reflect on the needs to achieve the ecological transition.

Judith: Asks Kadi about the role of circular economy in the Just Transition.

Kadi Kenk: We have been depleting and wasting our resources. And we have been neglecting the dignity of many people around the globe, as in Europe. Building a sustainable business is about nature as well as human beings. Business should not be about greed but based on human needs.

The panellists answer several questions from the floor before Judith closes the session.

Plenary

Elections and Voting session

17:30 – 19:30

Moderators:

- **Benedetta De Marte**, EGP Secretary General
- **Sibylle Steffan**, EGP Committee member

Benedetta explains the rules of the election and voting session. The number of allocated votes in the room is 122. One vote was withdrawn by the EGP Committee, because the respective party's membership fee was not paid on time. Positive votes, negative votes and abstentions are counted as votes cast. The quorum is the simple majority of the votes allocated.

Bert Beernink, provider of the electronic voting tool, explains how the devices work and conducts a test vote to establish the quorum and to check all voting delegates are able to vote.

The voting begins with the votes on the statutory documents, which will all be done electronically. It is pointed out that no amendments were tabled on any of the statutory documents.

S1. Benedetta calls for a vote on the *Proposal for Re-Categorisation of former Candidate and Associate Members*. **Benedetta** explains that the proposed re-categorisation was agreed with all the involved parties and is a consequence of the changes adopted to the Statutes and to the Rule Book of the EGP at the last Congress in Copenhagen. The vote concerns parties from Croatia,

Finland, Latvia, Spain, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Russia. Three quarters of the allocated votes, meaning 92 votes are necessary for the proposal to pass.

The vote is open and 120 votes are cast. 119 (99.2%) votes are in favour, 1 (0.8%) vote against and 0 abstentions. The proposed Re-Categorisation of the former Candidate and Associate Members is approved.

S2. Benedetta calls for the vote on the Full Membership of the political party *LIVRE* from Portugal. Three quarters of the allocated votes or 92 votes are necessary for the membership application to be accepted.

The vote is open and 116 votes are cast. 104 (89.7%) votes are in favour, 5 (4.3%) votes are against and there are 7 (6%) abstentions. The full membership of LIVRE is accepted.

S3. Benedetta calls for the vote on the Associate Membership of the political party *Párbeszéd – A Zöldek Pártja* from Hungary. Three quarters of the allocated votes or 92 votes are necessary for the membership application to be accepted.

The vote is open and 118 votes are cast. 110 (93.2%) votes are in favour, 2 (1.7%) votes are against and there are 6 (5.1%) abstentions. The associate membership of Párbeszéd is accepted.

S4. Benedetta calls for the vote on the Associate Membership of the political party *Pessoas-Animais-Natureza - PAN* from Portugal. Three quarters of the allocated votes or 92 votes are necessary for the membership application to be accepted.

The vote is open and 121 votes are cast. 111 (91.7%) votes are in favour, 4 (3.3%) votes are against and there are 6 (5%) abstentions. The associate membership of PAN is accepted.

S5. Benedetta calls for the vote on the Associate Membership of the political party *VESNA - zelena stranka* from Slovenia. Three quarters of the allocated votes or 92 votes are necessary for the membership application to be accepted.

The vote is open and 120 votes are cast. 109 (90.8%) votes are in favour, 5 (4.2%) votes are against and there are 6 (5%) abstentions. The associate membership of VESNA is accepted.

S6. The following item is the election of the third (and female) member of the Finance Advisory Board (FAB). **Benedetta** explains the voting procedure.

Benedetta calls for validating the candidacy of Maura Rose McMahon, as her candidacy was submitted after the deadline due to technical issues.

The vote is open and 119 votes are cast. 109 (91.6%) votes are in favour, 3 (2.5%) votes are against and there are 7 (5.9%) abstentions. The candidacy is accepted by the Congress.

Benedetta calls for the vote to elect the third member of the FAB. There are two candidates for this position: Mária Szabóné Szendefy and Maura Rose McMahon. An absolute majority is needed in the first round for one candidate to be elected. If no candidate gains an absolute majority, a second round of voting is organised.

The vote is open and 116 votes are cast. Mária Szabóné Szendefy gains 44 votes (37.9%), while Maura Rose McMahon gains 72 votes (62.1%). There are 0 abstentions. Maura Rose McMahon is elected to the Finance Advisory Board.

S7. Benedetta calls for the vote to elect a member of the Amendments Committee (AMC). There is one candidate for this position: Antoine Tifine. As there are two vacancies, and one member needs to be female, the Committee will co-opt a female AMC member after the Vienna Congress.

The vote is open and 119 votes are cast. 116 (97.5%) votes are in favour, 2 (1.7%) votes are against and there is 1 (0.8%) abstention. Antoine Tifine is elected to the Amendments Committee.

Moving on to other statutory documents.

S8. Benedetta calls for the vote on the *draft minutes of the 36th EGP Council and the 6th EGP Congress* that took place in Copenhagen in December 2022. Two thirds of the votes cast is required for the minutes to be adopted.

The vote is open and 119 votes are cast. 118 (99.2%) votes are in favour, 0 votes are against and there is 1 abstention (0.8%). The minutes of the 36th Council and the 6th Congress are adopted.

S9. Benedetta calls for the vote on the *Updated Membership List, annex B of the EGP Statutes*. The newly adopted members are included. Three quarters of the votes cast is required for the document to be adopted.

The vote is open and 120 votes are cast. 116 (96.7%) votes are in favour, 0 votes are against and there are 4 (3.3%) abstentions. The updated EGP Membership List is adopted.

S10. Benedetta calls for the vote on the *Accounts of 2022, the updated budget of 2023 and the campaign budget 2023*. Two thirds majority of votes cast are needed for these documents to be adopted.

The vote is open and 119 votes are cast. 119 (100%) votes are in favour, 0 votes against, 0 abstentions. The financial documents are adopted.

S11. Benedetta calls for the vote on the *EGP Activity Report 2022*. Two thirds majority of votes cast is needed for this document to be adopted.

The vote is open and 120 votes are cast. 119 (99.2%) votes are in favour, 0 votes are against, there is 1 (0.8%) abstention. The EGP Activity Report 2022 is adopted.

S12. Benedetta calls for the vote on the *Changes to the EGP Rulebook - updated Annex D Agreement with FYEG*. Two thirds majority of votes cast is needed for this document to be adopted.

The vote is open and 119 votes are cast. 117 (98.3%) votes are in favour, 2 (1.7%) votes are against, there are 0 abstentions. The updated Annex D Agreement with FYEG is adopted.

S13. Benedetta calls for the vote on *extending the mandate of the current AMC by 6 months*. Two thirds majority is needed for this to pass.

The vote is open and 116 votes are cast. 114 (98.3%) votes are in favour, 0 votes are against and there are 2 (1.7%) abstentions. The mandate of the current AMC is extended until the Congress at the end of 2024.

S14. Benedetta calls for the vote on the *proposal to organise an Extraordinary Extended Congress* between 2-4 February 2024.

The vote is open and 119 votes are cast. 119 votes are in favour (100%), 0 against with 0 abstentions. The Congress unanimously agrees to organise an Eo Extended Congress 2-4 Febr.

This concludes the votes on the statutory part.

Sibylle Steffan takes over the moderation for the voting on the resolutions. A simple majority is needed for the amendments to pass. Two thirds majority of the votes cast is needed for the resolutions as amended to pass. All votes are by show of hands unless otherwise indicated.

- **Resolution 1 - For actions against trade with endangered species**

No open amendments, compromises were found for all amendments.

Vote en block on all compromised amendments by show of hands is open. Adopted unanimously.

Vote on the resolution as amended by show of hands is open. Unanimously in favour.

- **Resolution 2 - Saving Rivers and Natural Water Bodies from Drought and Mismanagement**

No open amendments, compromises were found for all amendments.

Vote en block on all compromised amendments by show of hands is open. Unanimously in favour.

Vote on the resolution as amended by show of hands is open. Unanimously in favour.

- **Resolution 3 - Green and science-based approach to cannabis law in Europe**

No open amendments, compromises were found for all amendments.

Vote en block on all compromised amendments by show of hands is open. Adopted with a visible majority with some abstentions.

Vote on the resolution as amended by show of hands is open. Adopted with a visible majority with some votes against.

Miljöpartiet de gröna, Sweden asks to take note of their reservation against the whole resolution 3.

- **Resolution 4 - For a modern and ambitious EU economic governance and common fiscal policy**

Vote en block on all compromised amendments by show of hands is open. Adopted with a visible majority with some abstentions.

Vote needed on 1 open amendment.

Sibylle calls for a vote on amendment nr. 50 by the Federation of Young European Greens (FYEG). **Benedetta Scuderi** from FYEG speaks in favour. **Anders Schröder** from Swedish Greens speaks against.

Vote is open on amendment nr. 50. The amendment is adopted with a visible majority with some votes against and some abstentions.

Vote on the resolution as amended by show of hands is open. The resolution is adopted with 1 vote against and 1 abstention.

- **Resolution 5 - Sustainable and Just Wellbeing Economies for People and Planet**

No open amendments, compromises were found for all amendments.

Vote en block on all compromised amendments by show of hands is open. Unanimously in favour.
Vote on the resolution as amended by show of hands is open. Unanimously in favour.

- **Resolution 6 - The Prohibition of Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems**

No open amendments, compromises were found for all amendments.

Vote en block on all compromised amendments by show of hands is open. Unanimously in favour.
Vote on the resolution as amended by show of hands is open. Unanimously in favour.

- **Resolution 7 - Towards the EU elections 2024: the Green vision and the Green campaign**

Vote en block on all compromised amendments by show of hands is open. Unanimously in favour.
Vote needed on 1 open amendment.

Sibylle calls for a vote on amendment nr. 15 (AM-47-2) by the Green Party of England and Wales (GPEW). **Peter Underwood** from GPEW speaks in favour. **Mélanie Vogel** from the EGP Committee speaks against.

Vote is open on amendment nr. 15 (AM-47-2). The amendment is rejected with some votes in favour and some abstentions.

Vote on the resolution as amended by show of hands is open. The resolution is adopted with a visible majority with some abstentions.

Miljöpartiet de gröna, Sweden asks to have their reservation against the nr. 15 (AM 47-2) to be noted.

- **Resolution 8 - Leading the Green Success in 2024: procedure for the 2024 EGP leading candidates**

Vote en block on all compromised amendments by show of hands is open. Unanimously in favour.
Vote needed on 2 open amendments.

Sibylle calls for a vote on amendment nr. 2 (AM-6-1) by Miljöpartiet de gröna (Sweden). **Wanja Kaufmann** from Miljöpartiet de gröna speaks in favour. **Mélanie Vogel** from the EGP Committee speaks against.

Vote is open on amendment nr. 2 (AM-6-1). The amendment is rejected with some votes in favour.

Sibylle calls for a vote on amendment nr. 14 (AM-88-1) by Miljöpartiet de gröna (Sweden). **Wanja Kaufmann** from Miljöpartiet de gröna speaks in favour. **Mélanie Vogel** from the EGP Committee speaks against.

The vote is open on amendment nr. 14 (AM-88-1). The vote is inconclusive by a show of hands, moving to electronic vote. The vote is open and 121 votes are cast. 34 (28.1%) votes are in favour, 82 (67.8%) are against with 5 (4.1%) abstentions. The amendment is rejected.

Vote on the resolution as amended by show of hands is open. The resolution is adopted unanimously.

Miljöpartiet de gröna, Sweden asks to note their reservation against amendments 2 and 14.

- **Resolution 9 - Closing the Age Gap in Politics: Prioritising Young Candidates for the 2024 European Parliament Elections**

No open amendments, compromises were found for all amendments.

Vote en block on all compromised amendments by show of hands is open. Unanimously in favour.
Vote on the resolution as amended by show of hands is open. Unanimously in favour.

- **Resolution 10 - #BrusselsSoWhite: The EU has a diversity and inclusion problem! It's high time for a change. Let's be that change!**

No open amendments, compromises were found for all amendments.

Vote en block on all compromised amendments by show of hands is open. Adopted with a visible majority with some abstentions.

Vote on the resolution as amended by show of hands is open. Adopted with a visible majority with some abstentions.

- **Resolution 11 - European Political Parties must remain pan-European!**

No open amendments, compromises were found for all amendments.

Vote en block on all compromised amendments by show of hands is open. Unanimously in favour.

Vote on the resolution as amended by show of hands is open. Unanimously in favour.

This concludes the voting on the resolutions. The chairs thank the delegates for their very constructive cooperation. **Benedetta** closes the voting session.

Plenary

Closing speech

19:30 – 19:45

Speaker: **Benedetta De Marte**, EGP Secretary General

Benedetta reflects on the momentum the 37th Congress in Vienna has given to the Green family to dive into the work of the common European campaign.

She reminds the participants of the recent floods in Italy and the fact that the impacts of climate change can already be felt across Europe on a daily basis. She highlights the backlash to climate action that can be observed in the EU member states. The European Greens have a clear task to fight this backlash in the 2024 EU elections, and we are ready to do so, pointing out that the European family has grown during this Congress by four members, and congratulates them again for joining the EGP, welcoming Progresivie also as full member, as well as highlighting the convincing track record of Greens in governments. **Benedetta** encourages the European Green Family to ensure to bring others along in this fight, by listening and building alliances, and points to the process of building the common manifesto for the 2024 EU elections as a good example.

She reiterates the message of solidarity to Ukraine and the threat to democracy across the EU and beyond. She highlights that the Greens' answer must be a stronger Europe, and the visionary and bold approach of the political family to present solutions, which is also underlined by the different resolutions adopted at this 37th Congress. She points in particular to the resolutions on the framework for the European campaign and the leading candidates.

Benedetta concludes her speech with a round of thank yous to the co-hosting party, the Committee members, the other EGP bodies and the newly elected members of the FAB and AMC, the staff, and the participants themselves.

The next Congress of the EGP will take place online in December. The next in-person Congress will be the Electoral Congress in Lyon, France, from 2-4 February 2024.

Benedetta De Marte

Secretary General of the European Green Party

Brussels, 14 July 2023