

Dear friends,

Serving as the **Secretary General of the European Greens** for the past two and a half years alongside my Committee colleagues and the EGP staff, has been the most rewarding challenge of my political and professional life. **With this letter, I am seeking your trust for a second mandate.**

The years since our election in June 2022 have been challenging, but thanks to the work of this Committee, supported by an experienced and dedicated staff, we have accomplished a great deal. The European Greens have significantly **enlarged as a political family**, welcoming new parties particularly from Southern and Central-Eastern Europe. Some new members have different roots than traditional Green parties, which has enriched our community and helped to build green politics in countries where we have never been present before. This strategy also translated into electoral results, contributing to the current composition of the Green Group in the EP.

Despite difficult circumstances, we ran a 2024 EU Elections campaign of which we can be proud. It was the **most far-reaching campaign that the EGP has ever undertaken**. We provided a broad range of tools to parties and candidates, which received highly positive feedback. Thanks to an ambitious and inclusive manifesto process, the EGP strengthened its connections with civil society, laying a foundation we can further build upon as a political family.

The political climate remains challenging for the Greens, especially in some of our traditional strongholds. Green ideas and proposals are increasingly under attack. Where we are in positions of power, we face extreme backlash. The world has changed dramatically over the last few years and systemic crises are taking a huge toll on our communities, our democracy, and Europe as a whole. Putin's brutal war against Ukraine is still raging with support for Ukraine in our societies diminishing alarmingly. The war in the Middle East has escalated, causing unimaginable human suffering. European citizens are faced with growing instability: the economic situation across the EU is worsening and the climate catastrophe is hitting harder and faster than many expected. Nationalism and racist parties promoting an idea of society entirely contrary to our Green values are on the rise.

My vision for the next mandate

Given this new context, and as we enter in a post-electoral phase, the coming EGP Committee mandate will be different from the last. As Greens, it is our responsibility to interpret the new reality and work jointly on **a strategy** to gain further ground with citizens. At a time when other progressive forces are growing increasingly divided along national and ideological lines, we must remain **united and work on our joint political agenda** even further. While traditional political parties lack ambition for the European project, it is our task as Greens **to show leadership for pro-Europeans**. If you trust me again as Secretary General in the coming three years, these are the areas I will propose the Committee focuses on:

1. Start strategic reflections to face the current situation:

The coming years will be crucial to strengthen consensus around our ideas. First, EGP must facilitate strategic reflections with and among our member parties, as well as our partners in the Group, FYEG and GEF on key questions, like future Green narratives, alliances and power retention. Second, we must prioritise strengthened dialogue with the civil society, social movements, institutions, and the private sector to create a strategic alignment facing the upcoming challenges. Third, particularly in collaboration with FYEG, we should explore how to consolidate further our political movement by fostering and empowering the next generation of Green leaders.

2. Deepening exchanges and Europeanizing the debate among our member parties:

Our diversification in recent years has strengthened the family but also introduced new complexities. By offering spaces and channels to work on cohesive positions and on a strong and ambitious pro-European agenda, we will deepen policy discussions within EGP, including more thorough preparations for decision-making ahead of Congresses. We should continue connecting elected Greens from different countries facing similar situations and debates, whether at local or national levels.

3. Supporting our parties and identifying new political partners

EGP has invested significantly in a successful expansion strategy. Now, it is time to consolidate this progress by providing tailored support to our member parties, within the scope of the EGP's possibilities. In regions where the Green presence remains weak, we must continue building relations with like-minded partners. With EU enlargement on the horizon, this will be crucial for our future success.

4. A functioning organisation fit for our political ambitions:

As a result of the EU elections' result, EGP will face reduced resources in the coming years. While the challenges at hand require that we keep our ambitions high, the organisation will need to restructure to match the new budgetary reality and accommodate the enlarged Committee. Managing this internal transition professionally and humanely while ensuring full support for the incoming Committee, is my top priority.

After challenging years for us as Greens - and for the world - it is essential to move forward with political vision, energy and motivation to keep improving with every step.

I am asking for your continued support as EGP Secretary General because I am convinced that the Green project is the only one that can bring about the change we need in today's Europe. As always, I am wholeheartedly committed to giving my all for our movement.

My deepest gratitude goes to my Committee colleagues and to the EGP staff for their dedication and relentless work over the past two and a half (hectic!) years. Thank you Ecolo for trusting me with your nomination and to all of you for your support in the past mandate and for considering my candidacy for the upcoming one.

Yours,
Benedetta