

17 October 2024, Jelgava/Luxembourg

Elīna Pinto – Candidate for the EGP Committee – Motivation

Today, my motivation to strengthen and reinvigorate the European Greens is even stronger than a year ago. At the time I spoke with all our EGP family members – from the Baltic Sea to the Black Sea, from the Adriatic to the Atlantic coasts as part of my bid for our *Spitzenkandidat* selection.

Since then, we have fought together for our values at the European Elections. Together we face the growing affront to these values by far-right radicals, climate apathy, violent autocrats and their war machines. I am committed, energised and ready to support and steer this common cause as part of the EGP leadership team.

I

Together, we are stronger. For me, this means equal representation of the smaller but promising EGP members from the Baltic Sea Region, Eastern and Central Europe, and the South. Beyond the EU current borders – Ukraine and elsewhere. These regions are at the frontlines of our values. It is where we have had important recent wins that need to be solidified.

This does not mean creation of blocks within the EGP, but close and meaningful links and two-way engagement with the traditional green players in the heartlands of Europe. My longstanding European work, family and friendships equip me for understanding and blending these different perspectives into a mutually reinforcing, truly European approach.

My three children, when asked where they come from, answer that they are Europeans: belonging at the same time on the sandy Baltic coast, in a mountain village in Portugal and in the City of Luxembourg. We know in our family how it is to be on the very edge of Europe, and at the same time belong to its very heart, - and that one cannot do without the other. This is the leadership approach I embrace.

II

I represent a party which has built its upsurge on a progressive approach. We recognize that social and green policies reinforce each other. We have delivered results on equality and human rights, all while embracing policy areas that are not traditional for the greens, like defence and crisis resilience.

My own presidential and European campaign reached out to grassroots and regions, delivering new voters beyond upper-middle class urbanites: also elderly and underprivileged, farmers and firefighters (myself, I am training to become one).



With this approach and our experience in the government, we at *Progresivie* are testing a new ground for lasting political change: with greens that are ready to govern across the board, engage partners, reach out to new audiences, resist disinformation and break reactionary stalemates.

It is not easy, and we do make mistakes as well. But these experiences of the EGP members are invaluable and our best exchange currency for shared success. I want to strengthen the EGP as a hub for inspiration and best practice exchange on campaigning and governing. A hub for strategic coordination, communication and countering disinformation.

III

I now ask for your trust and support as you select the new EGP Committee, your key ally and support base for the coming complicated years. I come equipped with what I call “strategic impatience for structural change”. An approach that marries defiant activism for our values with constructive listening, tactical planning and professional maturity.

As a team player, I look forward to working towards our shared goals and will be there for you and next to you as we go for more and more green wins. The planet and the people deserve this. These wins are desperately needed, and there is no time to waste.

Yours,

Elena Pinto

