

# JAN STEURS

*You've got the words to change a nation but you're biting your tongue  
You've spent a lifetime stuck in silence afraid you'll say something wrong  
If no one ever hears it, how we gonna learn your song? (Emeli Sandé)*



Dear Green friends,

We may have met before, as I have been previously active with the Young European Greens, and later as a delegate for Groen since 2019. If we haven't been introduced yet:

My name is Jan and this is my motivation letter for a candidacy for the European Green Party Committee.

Europe is struggling, and so are we Greens. Fascists are attacking our border and while the climate crisis is more and more obvious, our continent seems paralyzed and we Greens struggle to convince people of our solutions. Because it is becoming hard to hope. We are losing the young generation to either apathy or even more radical climate action, and we European Greens stand before what is probably one of our greatest challenges so far: how do we convince people that there is still time, that we can still impact governments, from local to European, in order to take enough action?

**the climate isn't waiting**

We do better, fight harder, or if I am allowed to use the quote I put on top, we sing louder.

We have built alliances in some countries,

**politics nowadays are multilayered** and we see new hope in Eastern and Southern Europe. And in

this time of bigger alliances, the Green Party needs to inspire and point to our core business: climate. More than ever we need to keep pointing to the underlying cause of many of our current struggles, because the climate isn't waiting for anyone. We Greens know that. For decades we have been warning about the effects of the climate crisis. Now that the effects are tangible, we need to keep pointing it out and do what we still can.

At the same time, we need to change nations. When representative democracies slide towards autocracies, caused by not only the radical right, but also by center parties, we need to be the propellers of change and focus on democratic innovation. More and more people doubt that our current system is able to take the necessary measures against the climate crisis, so we must change it and open up our political bodies - on all levels - for more participation, more transparency and a 21st century approach to democracy.

I put my candidacy before you, because I chose to stop biting my tongue. And if I am allowed a few thoughts on how we as European Greens can do better: I believe we need to take into account that politics nowadays are multilayered. There is more than the European Parliament, and we need to impact every single layer of governance. From the Commission, to the European Council, to the Committee of the Regions,

our national, regional and local governments. As a consequence, our political outcome should reflect that.

**we need to be the  
propellers of change  
and focus on  
democratic innovation**

Specifically: resolutions and political statements should be able to impact local, regional and national levels as well. In order to achieve that, I would propose that we choose central topics for our Congresses, and launch discussions about these topics, already 4-6 months in advance. Giving more time to discuss core issues - similar to the discussions on the Manifesto - we will allow member parties to involve more people inside their party, and propose specific action points on other levels as well.

Another point of attention for me, would be the involvement of the Member Organisations not represented inside the European Parliament. While being aware of - and grateful for - the efforts of the Greens/EFA group on this level, I believe the EGP should be more involved in forwarding this information and organizing sessions on it, particularly during EGP events. During the last elections, we have had success in revitalizing our Green presence in Eastern and Southern Europe: let's build on it and make sure this success continues in the next election.

The EGP Committee will have the task of setting the stage for these next European elections, with less financial means and asking for an even bigger commitment. I am ready to do just that, and would invite you to watch my introduction video to get to know me better.

Hoping for your support,

**Jan**