

RUI TAVARES

CANDIDACY FOR COMMITTEE MEMBER

Lisbon, 22nd October 2024



Dear Members of the European Green Party 39th Congress,

The European Greens stand at a critical juncture. Our diagnoses of the challenges facing Europe and the world - from the climate crisis to the erosion of democratic values - have proven prescient. Yet, our political influence has not grown commensurately with the urgency of these issues. It seems we've mastered the art of being right, but we're still working on the trick of being listened to.

We often find it challenging to translate our analyses into broader support. The question before us is not just about policy, but about how we engage, mobilize, and inspire. How do we ensure our message cuts through the noise? How do we transform awareness into action? And crucially, how do we articulate a vision of the future that people actively desire?

These challenges demand a comprehensive approach. We need to weave together environmental protection and social justice in a way that resonates across diverse communities. We must create strategies that address our challenges at all levels.

It is in this context that I offer my candidacy for the European Green Party Committee. My journey through various levels of governance - from city councillor in Lisbon to national parliamentarian in Portugal, and as a Member of the European Parliament - has given me a sound perspective on how Green policies can be effectively implemented across different scales. This practical experience, combined with my work as a historian and author, has allowed me to bridge the gap between theoretical insight and political action.

In my work, I've strived to create what I call "objects of political desire" - visions of the future that inspire active engagement. This approach guided the growth of LIVRE in Portugal and, I believe, can strengthen our movement across Europe. My experience in the European Parliament, particularly on rule of law issues, has reinforced my belief in the power of collective action to defend our fundamental values.

If elected to the Committee, I commit to fostering greater collaboration between national Green parties, developing strategies to combat climate change and defend democracy, promoting a just transition to a green economy, and expanding the appeal of Green values. These goals are interconnected, and by addressing them in an integrated manner, we can increase our impact.

I don't pretend to have all the answers, but I'm committed to working alongside all of you to find solutions. Our collective wisdom and diverse experiences are our greatest assets. Together, we can build a stronger Green movement capable of not just responding to crises, but of shaping a future that embodies our values at every level of governance.

The challenges before us are great, but so is our potential for meaningful change. I look forward to contributing to this crucial work and to our shared vision of a greener, more just, and democratic Europe. Perhaps then, we'll not only be right, but we'll also be heard - and followed.

Sincerely,
Rui Tavares