

CANDIDACY FOR EGP CO-CHAIR

VULA TSETSI



Dear Friends,

It is an honour for me to present my candidacy for the position of Co-Chair of the European Green Party. For many years, I have been proud to be a part of our political family, contributing on the basis of different responsibilities. Since 2004, I have been the Secretary General of our Group in the European Parliament. Our political family has taken its responsibility to shape Europe and has improved the everyday lives of Europeans, whilst also standing firm by its values, with courage and a consistent moral compass, also when the wind is blowing in our faces.

Courage for a social, green and diverse Europe – standing in the way of the far right

We will need courage in the next years. The wars in Ukraine and in the Middle East have brought destruction and tremendous suffering on thousands of civilians. These wars go against basic principles of international law, and we Greens cannot stand idle to it. Even in the light of the worsening climate crisis and the dramatic loss of biodiversity, the ecological transition is increasingly under threat. At the same time, populist and extreme right forces are gaining in strength and have set out to destroy the democratic, liberal, diverse, social and green Europe we stand for. But we Greens will stand in their way. We are and must remain the antithesis of the extreme right. That is our historic responsibility!

We know that we are not alone in this fight. We stand side by side with youth movements for social and environmental justice, trade unions, economic actors, grassroots movements and feminist and LGBTIQ+ Groups. As EGP Co-Chair I want to intensify these contacts and reflect with the new Committee on new strategies and formats to effectively combine our forces.

I am convinced that we need to invest in close cooperation with other progressive parties and forces with the aim of bringing together a pro-democracy, pro rule of law and pro climate action coalition. This applies to the European Parliament, but also to the European Parties.

Learning from the past and building on successes

After the successful 2019 European elections, this year our electoral results in many member states were a setback. But we have also seen very good results from the Nordic countries and from other member parties who sent MEPs to the European Parliament for the first time. This is also the result of years of collaboration with and support from the EGP and the Group. I am glad to see that our work in the EGP committee has contributed to this success.

As Co-Chair, I want us to draw serious and honest conclusions from these results. Among us, we will need to analyse which political trends have led to a certain erosion of our electoral base. How do we address the worrying increase in support for the extreme right among young voters, when just some years ago climate action was a dominant and popular theme? How do we deal with the shift of the public focus from climate action to cost of living concerns? And how can we strengthen our unique political profile which brings together green growth, climate action and social justice? How do we combine our long-term vision with the everyday concerns of people? We need to discuss in the new committee, how to bring together member parties and the wider political family to build the Green profile.

At the same time, we should be proud of, and build on the success of our enlargement strategy and further strengthen our parties and partners in the South and Central Eastern Europe. We need to concentrate on supporting emerging parties and in particular invest in the green forces within the candidate countries for EU membership. We should further build on the successes of Greens in responsibility, from the local to the national and the European level.

Promoting Green Team work and internal cohesion

The challenges ahead can only be addressed by a culture of 'Green Team Work':

The European Green Party is at the core of the network of our political family, bringing together the national member parties, from within or outside the EU, with the policy expertise of our Group in the European Parliament, the analytical strength of our foundations and the enthusiasm and mobilisation of FYEG. I want us to develop a clear platform that promotes common priorities and values, and ensures that all member parties can align on key issues. Strengthening the internal cohesion within our family will reinforce our message and impact. It should be our ambition to bring together the Greens from different levels: Our MEPs, national parliamentarians, our parties in government our mayors and local councillors. They should all "become the voice" of our green family beyond the national borders. The European Green Party can play an important role in this mobilisation.

The enlargement of the Committee is a great opportunity. I want to make sure that within this team of 13, every single member's role is visible and reinforced. This will require clear

and shared responsibilities, regular exchanges on strategies and campaigns and the promotion of internal unity.

As a member of the EGP committee since 2019, I am familiar with the organisation and have seen the competence, commitment and enthusiasm of its staff members first hand.

Remain in a campaign mode

With the European Elections behind us, it is vital to remain in a campaign mode. Together with national parties and the Group in the European Parliament we need to find common topics and ways to promote them at all levels simultaneously. Effective cooperation between our European party and the Group in the European Parliament should be based on an overall strategic agreement and common campaigns. In this way, our European party can make a difference and claim its legitimate role in EU politics. Starting at the EGP Congress in Dublin, we can create new energy and new opportunities for a common green future and stand firm on our values.

The November 5th US elections will have a major impact on EU political life. We will see either a boost of anti - European populism and climate scepticism or a major encouragement for European progressives, climate action and the rule of law. Let's hope that by the time of our Dublin Congress we can profit from a new spirit and new energy from the election of the first female US President. If not, we will fight back with double force, making full use of our common European party. European Greens are in it for the long haul. With other progressives, we will join forces to bring an end to the current surge of anti-European populism and the extreme right.

Dear friends, I am very motivated to take on the responsibility of co-chairing the EGP. I hope you will give me the opportunity to contribute to the strengthening of our common political cause and European party. It is with passion and determination that I ask for your support for my candidacy.

Yours,



Vula Tsetsi
