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European Green Party

Draft

Title: **Wanja Kaufmann**

Tabled by: Miljöpartiet de gröna

Photo



Video

https://vimeo.com/1011415877

Motivation Letter [PDF]

MOTIVATION LETTER

W A N J A K A U F M A N N

Dear green friends,

My name is Wanja, and I am running for committee member of the European Green Party. Over the past 14 years, I have dedicated my life to the green movement in different ways. One of the most important things I have learnt throughout these years is that we, the Greens, are at our absolute best when we get to meet, exchange experiences, and learn from each other.

The European Green Movement is building on a huge diversity of organisational and political cultures - from Georgia in the East to Ireland in the West, and from Malta in the South to most northern Sweden. Over the past years, we have as a movement become better and better at listening to each other, appreciating the fact that the different contexts that we operate in give us all unique experiences and valuable expertise to bring to the table. However, in my experience, there is still a lack of understanding of how to best include voices from smaller parties - especially southern and eastern member parties. **We need to work actively on becoming better at drawing on different views and experiences in EGP-level policymaking processes**. As an EGP committee member, I want to work actively on improving internal policy making processes, and strengthening the position of small parties - with a focus on parties in Eastern Europe and in the Balkans. I expand further on this in my vision outline.

I joined the Greens back in 2010, as a young green activist in my hometown of Falun. My reason for joining back then was the fact that the Sweden Democrats - the right wing racist party - was about to gain seats in the Swedish parliament for the first time ever. I wanted to make sure that I was contributing everything I could to the opposite of what they stood for - open borders, anti-racism, and an active international de-colonialist peace engagement. 14 years later, the Sweden Democrats are Sweden's second biggest party and I am convinced that my reasons for joining the Greens are more relevant and important than ever. **And I am convinced that we, as Greens, need to continue to be the strongest voice possible for human rights, open borders, anti-racism and de-colonialism.** The green transition needs to be a just one - in Europe and Globally.

Currently, I am the chair of the Green Forum Foundation - an organisation dedicated to the strengthening of Green parties around the world through budget support, capacity building and international exchange. Previously, I have served as the international secretary of the Swedish Young Greens, and Executive committee member and member organisation coordinator of FYEG, as well as in other roles where international exchange and interaction with other Green parties - in Europe and globally - have been a core part of the daily work. Throughout the many interactions I have had with greens from all parts of Europe (and the World), I have gotten more and more convinced that there is a realistic possibility for every single country to have a strong and active Green party, challenging the system and driving progressive, green change - **we just need to learn how to allocate the resources of the joint green movement properly**. One way to do this is to **streamline what I like to call the "green support system"**. I expand further on this in my vision outline.

I am a doer, I am a great team mate and I like to think that I am good at making people feel included - in social settings as well as in political negotiations. I am also a queen of structure, and I never leave a meeting without a clear to-do list. Furthermore, I know the Green European Movement like the back of my hand. I like to think that all of these things make me a good candidate for EGP committee member.

In the coming mandate, my ambition is to travel a lot (especially to the Balkans and Eastern Europe), meet a lot of greens around Europe and work for a European Green Party that becomes even more inclusive, more efficient and stronger than we are today.
I hope to get the honour to receive your votes at the congress in Dublin in December, and to get to represent not only the Nordics but the whole of EGP's member party base over the next few years.

If you have any questions, I would be happy to respond to them - either via email, WhatsApp, Instagram or through a Zoom call. Find my contact data below.

All the best - and see you soon in Dublin!





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WhatsApp: +46705087125
Email: wanja.kaufmann@mp.se

VISION

W A N J A K A U F M A N N

As stated in my motivation letter, I am running for committee member for the European Green Party. This document outlines my vision for the European Green Party and what I want to focus my work on during the coming mandate.

My vision is a Europe where every country has a strong Green party that engages youth as well as marginalised groups, and that actively participates in and is successful in elections on all levels. My vision is also a European Green movement where smaller parties have the possibility to feel included and heard to the same extent as big green parties that have been around for decades. There is not one correct version of what a Green Europe looks like.

To achieve the above requires time, dedication and the efforts of many, many greens around Europe. In order to facilitate this development and to drive, I do however think that there are a few things that the European Green Party can and should take on as key tasks in the coming years:

Streamlining the European Green "support system"

As outlined in my motivation letter, I have throughout the many interactions I have had with greens from all parts of Europe gotten more and more convinced that there is a realistic possibility for every single country to have a strong and active green party, challenging the system and driving progressive, green change - we just need to learn how to properly allocate the resources of the joint green movement. Today, many green parties in Western and Northern Europe have foundations affiliated with them - some examples of such foundations are Green Forum (Sweden, which I am the chair of), Heinrich Böll Stiftung (Germany), De Helling (Netherlands) and SF (Denmark). Many of these foundations support green parties in Eastern Europe and the Balkans with budget support, logistical support, capacity building, training and meeting facilitation. To some extent, these foundations already coordinate their efforts with each other to maximise efficiency, but the coordination with the EGP - another "support" body, who also supports parties in Eastern Europe and the Balkans, but rather through networking, policy and campaign support - is almost non-existent. I strongly believe that the EGP and the foundations could, by joining forces (and invite other relevant bodies, like for example GEF, FYEG and the Global Greens) achieve much more in a much shorter time than we are today, by providing the right kind of combined, specific support to the parties that need it and for whom it is most relevant at a given time.

I want the EGP to be a driving force in this coordination work. As an EGP committee member, I want to initiate the setup of a platform for exchange and knowledge sharing, and call for regular coordination meetings between EGP, the foundations and other relevant bodies.

More inclusive processes for joint policy development

Over the past years, we have as a movement become better and better at listening to each other, appreciating the fact that the different contexts that we operate in give us all unique experiences and valuable expertise to bring to the table. However, there is, in my experience, still a lack of understanding of how to best include voices from smaller parties. Today, the way our federation responds to voices from smaller parties who represent a political minority is often with lack of patience and a call for "willingness to compromise", rather than a will to truly understand the contexts that these parties are operating in and accept differences. The EGP should talk with a joint voice when possible, but where this is not an option, it should not be forced - instead, we should stand (and, where relevant, announce) proudly with the fact that we are an inclusive organisation where very diverse parties around Europe can work together and unite around a set of core values. In order to understand each other better and include the whole variety of different green voices within our federation, we should however aim to make our policy making processes (both processes leading up to congresses and other processes in between) more inclusive and representative, so that all our member parties feel that their voices have been heard, regardless of what the outcome is. As an EGP committee member, I want to deep dive into this topic and explore how to best set the ground for more inclusive policy making processes, through separate consultations with all EGP member parties.

Increased focus on strengthening the Balkans, Eastern Europe and Caucasus

Over the past decade, young green activists have taken both the streets and the political offices in many Balkan and Eastern European countries. At the same time, many green parties in this part of Europe are still quite young (new), working with minimal resources and operating in difficult political contexts. In order for the green parties in the Balkans, Eastern Europe and Caucasus to thrive and reach their full potential, the EGP should support them in all ways possible - with financial and logistical resources (for example by partnering/coordinating with green foundations, like mentioned above), networking, capacity building and campaign support. As an EGP committee member, I want to travel to the Balkans, Eastern Europe and Caucasus regularly during the coming mandate to meet, network with, and participate at events of the greens, with the aim of gaining a deeper understanding for the needs and wishes for support, and build successful strategies for strengthening green parties in the region.

Do you have any questions about - or input on - my vision for the EGP? Feel free to reach out - you can find my contact details at the bottom of my motivation letter.

Wanja Kaufmann

mob: +44(0)7356023999 | email: wanja.kaufmann@mp.se

SUMMARY

Experienced political advisor, team leader and project manager with a proven track record in public affairs, international development, and policy making. Skilled in strategic planning, project and partnership management, financial planning, and advocacy. Thematic expertise: climate and energy, human rights, and international development cooperation.

POLITICAL EXPERIENCE

Chair & Board member, Green Forum, Stockholm *Jan 2018 - present*

- Lead strategic decision-making for partnerships with green organisations in Eastern Europe, Sub-Saharan Africa, and Latin America; focus on green party development, democratic inclusion, citizen involvement, and youth engagement.
- Oversee yearly salary revisions for the general secretary.
- Serve as a sounding board to the general secretary regarding financial, recruitment, and programme-related matters.
- Lead the board's work, including agenda preparation, meeting management, and team building.

Delegation leader, Swedish delegation to the European Green Party, Stockholm/remote *May 2017 – present*

- Coordinating the Swedish EGP delegation's work before, around and after EGP congresses. This includes organising and preparing pre-meetings, overseeing negotiations at CAS sessions, logistics planning together with the international secretary, and contact with other delegations.
- Responsible for ongoing contact with EGP office and committee representatives.

Member organisation coordinator & Executive committee member, Federation of Young European Greens, Brussels & Remote *Apr 2020 - May 2022*

- Coordinated a network of 36 young green organisations across Europe.
- Facilitated dialogues, monitored regional network platforms, and led strategic planning, including budgeting.
- Moderated and facilitated various seminars, workshops, bilateral dialogues, regional network meetings with members of the European Parliament, grass root activists and NGO representatives.
- Introduced a new mapping system of the member organisations' needs, improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the support we could provide as an umbrella organisation.

Members and voters relations & deputy international secretary, Swedish Green Party's parliamentary office, Stockholm *Feb - Nov 2018*

- Managed communication channels during the 2018 parliamentary election campaign.
- Managed and answered phone calls, emails and letters being sent to the party.
- Supported members of parliament at events and debates, including speech preparation.
- Organised seminars, study trips, and supported local and regional Green party officials.
- Led the relationship with other Green parties and federations on a Nordic, European, and Global level.

International secretary, Swedish Young Greens, Stockholm *Feb 2017 - Feb 2020*

- Supervised a team of seven committee members and led strategic planning and budgeting.
- Represented the organisation in public political debates about e. g. international development, trade, foreign policy, aid, security and defense.
- Organised international activities for members, including study trips to Brussels and policy development trainings.
- Coordinated cooperation with green youth organisations and federations on a Nordic, European and Global level.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

PR & Public affairs advisor, Westander, Stockholm/London *Apr 2023 - present*

- Advising clients on public affairs and press strategy, with the aim of ensuring successful participation in public debate, positive societal change and business success. This includes strategy drafting, stakeholder management and event planning.
- Specialised on clients within the renewable energy sector, mainly wind power (in Sweden and internationally).
- Developed a comprehensive platform for clients to oversee and monitor (onshore and offshore) wind power projects in Sweden, including tools for assessing the likelihood of project success and the incentives for investing in both greenfield and acquired projects.

- Represented the company at various exhibitions and conferences.

Programme manager, Sida, Stockholm *Sep 2020 - Mar 2023*

- Managed grant support partnerships within EU-funded mechanisms for inclusive governance, gender equality and peace building in Afghanistan, securing Sida's ability to use the UNDP transfer window mechanism to channel funds into Afghanistan after the Taliban take-over.
- Orchestrated Sida's partnerships with the UN and the World Bank on climate security topics, securing Sida funds to the World Bank's FCV (Fragile, conflict-affected & violent settings) programme.
- Oversaw partnerships in areas of resilience, DRR, urban development, water, energy and biodiversity, as well as the WE4F (water and energy for food) challenge fund.
- Developed strategic communication plans for the MENA & peace units, increasing focus on strategic communication.
- Co-authored Sida's Multidimensional Poverty Analysis 2020.

Second secretary, Swedish Embassy in Albania, Tirana *Sep - Dec 2021*

- Supported Albanian startups and youth businesses through the embassy's innovation challenge fund.
- Managed dialogue, risk reduction and resilience partnerships with Albanian governmental agencies and CSOs.
- Oversaw the Embassy's strategic planning process, leading planning days, workshops, and strategy drafting.

Student research consultant, Dutch defense ministry, Groningen *Jan - Jun 2020*

- Conducted research on NATO's 'Enhanced Forward Presence' mission in Lithuania, on behalf of the Dutch defence ministry's CAI department.
- Analysed impact of information operations and hybrid warfare on Lithuanian citizens, focusing on mental resilience.

ACADEMIC EDUCATION & TRAINING COURSES

Uppsala University / University of Groningen — Master of Theology, International Humanitarian Action, 2019-2021

Uppsala University — Bachelor in Political Science and Economy, 2016-2019

Karlstad University — Courses in intercultural studies, 2017-2020

Vesper group — Hostile Environment Awareness Training, 2021

Folk & Försvar — Security & defense academy, 2018

Save the children Sweden — International aid academy, 2017

PUBLICATIONS

- Uppsala University (2022): "Good Water Neighbours: Direct and indirect effects of community engagement on transboundary water cooperation in the Jordan river basin"
- University of Groningen (2020): "Mental resilience in Lithuania"

  Uppsala University (2019): "Vulnerabilities in a wetter world: a study on migration as an adaptation strategy to climate change"

Languages: Swedish (native), Swiss German (native), German (fluent), English (fluent), French (B2), Yoruba (A2)

Supporters
Cyprus Greens - Citizens Cooperation, Partia e Gjelber / Party of the Greens of Albania, Možemo! – politi?ka platforma, ADPD, Partija Zelenykh Ukrainy, Demokratska Obnova na Makedonija, Vihreät – De Gröna, Federation of Young European Greens, Partido Ecologista Os Verdes, PROGRES?VE, Ecological Green Party - Partidul Verde Ecologist, déi gréng, Groen, GroenLinks, Ecolo, Gra?anski Pokret URA, SF - Green Left, Verdes Equo, Green Party of England and Wales, Esquerra Verda, Les Écologistes Europe Écologie Les Verts, Miljøpartiet De Grønne, Zieloni, LIVRE, Scottish Green Party