

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!



Instagram: @wanjakaufmann

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.