



Jan Steurs

*Don't you know, they're talking 'bout a revolution
It sounds like a whisper
Poor people gonna rise up, and get their share
(Tracy Chapman)*

Dear Green Friends,

With this letter, I would like to put my candidacy forward for the election of the EGP Committee position.

For the past seven years, I have represented Groen as a delegate—years that have taught me how to work across parties, build trust, and deliver results. I've collaborated with the Committee and over ten member parties on projects and statements regarding the Middle East, building bridges and contributing to a stronger cohesion regarding positions of our different parties. With this experience, I know to be ready to swiftly integrate in a Committee which has already implemented several plans. Having also received the full trust of the Green Party of England & Wales and Groen, I am ready to hit the ground running from day one.

"Feminism isn't preached (by men). It is practised, by simple daily actions and by standing up to support. I am proud to call myself a feminist and I will step in as an ally."

We face challenges, we are all aware of this. The question is how we overcome them. For the European Green Party, a part of the answer lies in making sure it remains conscient of its grassroots democracy origins and its European ambitions. When the European Union threatens our pan-European ambitions, we need to find solutions wherein our non-EU members remain fully embedded in our organisation, with enough voice and leverage to make a difference inside the European Green Party. The internal processes are a key element in our cooperation, and we need to make sure they work for all of us.

"The first international Fridays for Future assembly, which I coordinated in 2019, did not happen because they came to us. It happened because we reached out to them, inviting them to Strasbourg to witness climate debates, but also by offering facilities for this assembly and reimbursement for 60 very young activists."

The second part of the answer lies outward. It was us, the Greens who went to Hungary to defend the Pride. It was us who went to Serbia, to support the protest against a would-be dictator and us who joined the Sumud Flotilla. It is us, who fight for upholding the Istanbul Convention in Latvia, all the while staying on our line to defend climate policies. Bold, political choices for which I applaud the current Committee, choices I wish to encourage even further by doubling down on social issues. Let's talk about wealth taxes, about including social programs in defense budgets and housing first. And perhaps importantly: don't talk about the working class without the working class.

"Having worked my way up without a higher degree, doing bullshit jobs and paying off family debts, I know what it means to struggle. I know another fighter when I see one, so let me tell you: I will fight for you too."

And while a full-scale invasion is happening in Ukraine, a hybrid war is being fought elsewhere in Europe. Drone espionage, cyberwarfare, sabotage, disinformation campaigns and meddling in election campaigns are a daily reality. We need a common security policy but most importantly, a holistic approach including a common European diplomatic

and trade policy: sanctions don't work when some circumvent them. If NATO proves to be unreliable, it is time to consider complementary alternatives and make meaningful steps towards a European Defensive Alliance. Turning Europe in a military-industrial complex cannot be our solution. Investing in security should not happen at the expense of investments in a green and social Europe. A coherent foreign policy with sufficient and thus substantially augmented support to Ukraine, currently fighting on the frontlines of democracy, is essential.

"We face the 6th Extinction wave, a global climate catastrophe. As Greens we know that we need global climate justice. To get to there, we need uncompromised positions on human rights and international law. This is why intersectionality is so important."

If we wish to make a difference in Ukraine, Palestine or beyond we need all our allies. We need understanding and mutual support for each and every member party. There is a bigger enemy out there. One which attacks our climate policies, our human rights, our democracy and for many minorities, their right to exist. Fascism is here, and we need to beat it.

We can do that, by making hope normal again. And in order to do so, we need to make bold, political choices, supported by the best of campaigns. Allow a campaigner to help you with this in the Committee.

I ask for your support to work on these issues in the Committee of the European Green Party.

ModernFather - Transparency activist - Campaigner