

**Motivation letter**  
for **EGP Committee Member**  
**Markus Drake** (he/him)  
Vihreät - De Gröna - Finnish Greens

Dear friends in Green parties across Europe,  
Here we go again! I am, like last year, asking for your support for a position on the Committee of the European Green Party, specifically the one vacated by Elīna Pinto, at the nomination of the Finnish Greens. I am a veteran Green activist from Finland, living and acting all over the European continent for over three decades, in recent years with an interest and focus on security and preparedness.

I have had the pleasure of serving as a member of the board of my national party, as secretary general of the Young European Greens, and the privilege of following the past four European Parliament elections closely. I live in Brussels, having first moved there in 2007. I spend my time observing politics, have worked in youth politics, in the development sector, and as a professional campaigner. But my passion is for re-shaping European politics, strategic planning, and ideological development. That is what I have done for the Finnish and Young European Greens, that is what I would join doing for the EGP on the Committee.

Previously, we Greens have been the avenue where new social movements have brought new questions and identities into the political realm. Right now, we must continue to carry that energy, while accepting that the world has changed. The new challenges of living in geopolitical times means not only adjusting our positions and re-directing our energies. It means collective work on accepting a changed reality. It means grief and grieving for things that have been lost. I am convinced that unless we Greens work intensely on what we have in common, meet up, encounter and listen to each other, we will have a difficult road ahead of us. We may have a difficult road anyway, but at least we can manage to walk it together. That is what I would drive in the EGP: more encounter, more listening, more sharing.

I lived in a small village for a couple of years, and found a local community there, and strength in it. I joined the volunteer firefighters, a pretty conservative bunch, and in them found allies for both welcoming refugees and fighting forest fires. It is by the same tools we European Greens must face our challenges. Through determination and solidarity, but also in our refusal to give up our ideals against overwhelming odds. The threats we face are social, environmental, climatic and military. We have answers to them, but also disagreements about tactics and strategy. That is all right! As long as we know each other, and have learned to trust in that each of us is acting in good faith, we can stand together even in our disagreements.

I want to develop the EGP as the space where that trust is built. Thank you for your time and hopefully your support.

Markus Drake