From **Daniela Bozhinov**a PhD, Zeleno Dvizhenie(Green Movement), Bulgaria
Candidate for the GEF GA vacancy

To the EGP Leadership and 41-st Congress

Motivation Letter

Dear fellow delegates of the 41 congress of the EGP,

I am writing to express my interest in becoming a Member of the General Assembly of the Green European Foundation (GEF).

Having been involved in the European green movement for nearly two decades, through both politics and civil society, I see this as an opportunity to contribute to the Foundation's work and bring the experience of Bulgaria and the Black Sea region into our common European discussions.

I was one of the founders of the Bulgarian Zeleno Dvizhenie (Green Movement) party, originally called ZELENITE, in 2008. Since then, I have held several leadership positions, including that of Co-Chairperson. During my first term as Co-Chairperson (2011-2013), I succeeded to strengthen the party's international ties and helped it become a full member of the European Green Party.

My cooperation with GEF goes back to that period. Together with GEF, we organised two international projects in Bulgaria: a workshop on the European Citizens' Initiative and a seminar on asylum, migration and the EU's external borders. These experiences gave me a good understanding of the GEF's work and its role in raising awareness and bringing people together to exchange ideas and discuss the challenges facing Europe.

My background combines political experience, legislative work, many years in civil society, as well as cultural diplomacy and international business experience.
As a Member of the Bulgarian Parliament from 2023 to 2024, I authored and passed amendments to the taxation legislation reducing administrative burden on small producers, amendments to the Black Sea Coast Spatial Development Act aimed at curbing over-development and protecting vulnerable coastal ecosystems. I also proposed a climate amendment to the Bulgarian Constitution and worked on reforming the legislation on direct citizen participation in decision-making.

Earlier, as a municipal councillor in Burgas, I worked to develop local legislation on the right to environmental information, public consultation, right to protest, LGBTQI+ rights and the protection of urban green spaces.

My work in civil society has been equally important. I co-founded Democracy International in 2011 and have served in several leadership and governance roles. I also founded the Bulgarian Association for the Promotion of Citizens' Initiatives, which works on participatory democracy, environmental justice and human rights. I have also considerable experience

with B2B assistance programs and business representation through the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Bulgaria and the Eurochambers.

My PhD in Political Science and my research on electoral democracy have further shaped my commitment to making institutions more open and responsive to citizens.

I believe that the European green movement has much to gain from sharing experiences across countries and learning from different political and social realities.

Bulgaria and the Black Sea region face serious challenges related to climate change, biodiversity loss, coastal development and public participation in environmental decisions. And with the Russian aggression in Ukraine most recently escalating in maritime and drone attacks, a host of new problems has topped the regional agenda - problems of safety and security for people and trade in the Black Sea.
These issues are closely connected to wider European challenges, yet the experience of our region is often underrepresented in European discussions.

As a member of GEF's General Assembly, I could contribute to the Foundation's strategic direction and help strengthen its connections with green political actors and civil society in South-East Europe.

I would bring my experience from Bulgarian politics, my work with international organisations and my long-standing commitment to environmental protection and citizen participation.

I would be glad work with the Green European Foundation in this new capacity and to contribute to its mission.

Yours sincerely,

Daniela Bozhinova, PhD
Bulgaria