

Dear European Greens,

We are living in challenging times. Multiple, interwoven crises shape our era and require our united efforts. The escalation of violence in the Middle East, the brutal war in Ukraine, and the associated energy crisis. Growing social inequality. An authoritarian backlash against democracy and fundamental rights. The aggravating climate and biodiversity crises.

The world has become darker in recent years. And often, it has become more challenging to find hope and look positively towards the future. **But especially now, precisely for these challenges, the Greens are needed.** And we as Greens are taking this responsibility in governments all over Europe:

With the “child basic income”, we have shown in Germany that it is possible, that **we can make our societies fairer.** Organizing the necessary majorities for this is our task. Also at the European level.

In Ireland, the Green Minister for Energy, Eamon Ryan, is expanding offshore wind power on the west coast.

In Belgium, the Greens have initiated a law against femicides. The first of its kind. Because we will **NEVER** accept that every third day a woman is killed by her partner or ex-partner.

In Latvia, we appoint the Defense Minister. On the eastern flank of NATO, we are taking on responsibility, for the security of the entire European Union.

In Austria, the Green Minister for Climate and Transport, Leonore Gewessler, has further expanded night trains and introduced a climate ticket.

In Spain, the new left-progressive-green government will have a wonderful green Minister of Culture, Ernest Urtasun.

In Poland, we fought along with the civil society, especially the women against a continued dystopian future. **And we won.**

And without us Greens in the European Parliament, there would have been no ambitious Green Deal in the last five years. No European combustion engine phase-out. No European truck toll. No reform of emissions trading. No climate-social fund to protect people from energy poverty.

We have succeeded in getting the European Union to **finally join the Istanbul Convention**, thus sending a strong signal for the protection of women’s rights.

In the EU, we Greens are needed to advocate for greater social justice. Many people all over the EU are afraid of the end of the month because they are not sure anymore that their money will last that long. Truck drivers fight for fair wages, caregivers for better working conditions, seasonal workers for reliable health protection. They rely on the EU.

The EU can provide the protective framework for robust social security systems. Instead of pitting people against each other we have to make it clear: **Together in a strong European Union, we are all safest and strongest.**

Social justice is the foundation of democratic societies. With the European minimum wage and the pay transparency directive, we have shown: **The EU can be social and just.**

We have achieved a lot in recent years. The massive mobilization of the climate movement and the **Green wave** in parts of Europe in the 2019 election have cut through many knots and made changes possible that previously lacked majorities.

But these advances, the Green Deal, are under massive pressure. Conservatives and liberals are allying with far-right extremists to dilute or entirely prevent progress in nature and environmental protection or in industrial and energy transition. But we will not give in.

Achieving climate goals has long become a question of future **competitiveness and security**. We must not make ourselves vulnerable to blackmail by autocratic regimes again. On the contrary, we must become leaders in **green transformation, green technology, and green industry**.

Smart industrial policy requires smart investment policy. An EU that cuts back on spending will not be able to compete globally. If the economy is weak and the infrastructure is simultaneously in a desolate state in many European countries, then we must massively invest in the future viability of the European Union: from green hydrogen pipelines to fiber-optic networks, from railway tracks to functioning hospital structures. Let's make **the Infrastructure Union** a reality together.

Europe has a dark past. And it has been shown that we were always strong when, instead of authoritarian suppression, we opted for democratic renewal.

Autocrats are currently trying to undermine our democratic societies. They attack minorities, deny women basic rights, undermine the rule of law, and dismantle the separation of powers. They want to destroy everything that has made us strong and secure in the past decades.

We will not allow that. **We Greens fight for an EU that takes its values seriously** and defends and develops democracy and freedom. For all these challenges, a strong Europe is needed and a European Parliament with strong Greens.

I have been in the European Parliament since 2014 and have been co-chair of the largest Green group of all times. I cannot tell you how 2024 will turn out. But, I know that together we can handle anything, position ourselves wisely, and negotiate hard but fairly.

But one thing I can tell you with absolute conviction.

The next months are not yet decided; they lie in our hands.

But now, dear friends, now we fight.

And I want to fight with you. To make our Europe greener, fairer and more democratic.

Let's do it together.

All the best,
Terry

