

- Amendments TO BE VOTED ON BY CONGRESS

Remark: if some words or sentences in the amendments are underlined it means these words or sentences have been included in the resolution by the working group or the committee. See as example amendment nr 110

A green Future for Europe

AMENDMENTS TO THE RESOLUTION BY THE MEMBER PARTIES

One global amendment from Danish Greens

This amendment uses as focus a total rejection of the EU and its institutions and only wants to recognize the nation's states as objects of policy and governance. As such it is not possible to classify these amendments paragraph by paragraph. The cohesion of the text absolute and expresses a position that asks Greens not to work in or with EU structures but to call continuously for their close down>

We consider it as a global amendment that as such should be presented to the congress as an alternative to the basic resolution. It is clear that although the WG, the committee and the member parties will have each different degrees of criticism towards the EU structures and policies, all of them reject the i-realistic, dangerous, useless absolute rejection of the EU structures and institutions as object of policy and governance.

The WG and the committee proposes to the congress to reject the Danish global amendment and to start the process of discussing and voting on all other amendments conform the rules of procedures of the congress of the EGP

000 Danish global amendment considered an alternative resolution

Summer of 2005 : popular victory over the political class

The future of Europe should be decided by all the people living in Europe, not by a small caste of eurocrats and politicians, as is the case in the European Union.

The surprising No-votes in France and the Netherlands in the summer of 2005, showed that lots of people don't want to be ruled by a political ruling class.

Following these No-votes a wave of resistance against the EU constitution and the EU system rolled over most of the EU countries.

Of course the majority of the people could be wrong and the majority of the politicians could be right. But we as European Greens make the choice to be on the side of this rebellion. And we have something better than the EU to offer.

Regreening the Greens

There has been a tendency that the green parties was becoming class and lifestyle parties for a higher educated career and power orientated upper middle class, very interested in own comfort and position, identity and estetic issues. But at the same time ignoring nature, the facts of how the majority of the worlds population live and the globally necessary changes.

But now the greens are back, greener than ever.

Reflecting on the summer of 2005 No-votes to the EU constitution in France and the Netherlands, the Greens of Europe have chosen to get back to the origin of our political movement, focusing and radicalising the original polities that today are more needed than ever in our much more unsustainable world.

Our European Perspective

For Greens Europe has always meant more – geographically as well as politically – than the European Union. Since the start of the European Coordination of Green Parties in 1983 we always had Green parties inside and outside of the European Union as our member parties: At the moment our European Green Party includes 35 parties in 31 countries. And, especially in times of globalisation, environmental and social problems don't begin or stop at EU member countries' borders. For us Greens building a wall and closing one's eyes to what is happening abroad is not an option.

The increasing lack of social justice, especially concerning jobs and future perspectives for young women and men, the running down of human and citizens' rights in times of terrorism, the growing influence of organised crime, the nuclear backlash as well as the deterioration of ecological criteria are, among other things, of deep concern for Greens all over Europe.

The European cooperation for Greens had and still has one major aim: To build, after centuries of war and conflict, lasting peace and cooperation among the peoples of this continent, and after centuries of colonization, to have a positive impact on global politics. Especially the second aspect has not been achieved in a way Greens would like to see results.

Make the EU history

In the EU there is a natural "us and them", because many European countries are kept out or wants to stay out. This is not the case for the real interstate cooperation organisations in Europe are.

While the EU is not compatible with local, regional, national and direct democracy, the real interstate cooperation organisations in Europe are.

Therefore we as European Greens want to build the future of the European cooperation on these organisations and a stronger cooperation between grassroots all over Europe.

Naturally the work of these organisations also to some extent reflects the governing norms and standards of for example what democracy is, but they are quite flexible and open for change in a green direction than the EU, which gives constitutional status to neoliberalism.

Because it has become a part of the identity of many people especially in the elite in some parts of Europe, it is very difficult for some to give up the idea that the EU is a force for the good, but we greens have the courage to face this reality. The EU is product of another age and it is too difficult to change. Instead we must take up the organisations and institutions that have the ability to fast changes and the potential to facilitate and help a sustainable development in Europe and the World.

Council of Europe

Council of Europe includes 46 member states, 2 European applicant states and 5 observer states. It started 1949 and has made almost 200 conventions on various issues. The first accession from the former Soviet block already happend in 1990.

In contrary to EU directives, Council of Europe Conventions must be ratified in a country before it applies to this country, and at the same time it can function for the ratifying countries when for example 2/3 have signed. This is both democratic and efficient.

The achievements of the Council of Europe includes the formation of the still functioning European Human Rights Court in Stasbourg. Unfortunately some member states (which are also members of the EU) are not willing to grant the money necessary for the optimal function of the Council of Europe and the Human Rights Court. The European Greens condemn this and underline the need for sufficient funding of this very cost-efficient organisation. In the future we see the Council of Europe further develop the activities on culture and education cooperation totally replacing the EU in this field.

UNECE

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe is founded in 1946 and includes 56 member states. UNECE brokers international legal instruments addressing trade, transport and the environment; and supplies statistics and economic and environmental analysis.

From a European Green viewpoint an extended, fast and efficient railway network all over Europe should be a very high priority for European cooperation and could be placed in a framework of a convention under UNECE or Council of Europe.

OSCE

The primary aims for the Organisation for Cooperation and Security in Europe are early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation.

Formed as the Conference for Security and Cooperation in the early 1970s, the OSCE always included countries from both Eastern and Western Europe. Today 56 states are participating in the OSCE, all are equal and making common decisions by consensus on a politically, but not legally binding basis.

OSCE activities include :

- * Action against Terrorism Unit (ATU)
- * Anti-Trafficking Assistance Unit
- * Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC)
- * Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities
- * External Co-operation
- * Gender mainstreaming
- * Strategic Police Matters Unit (SPMU)
- * Training Section

EFTA

The European Free Trade Association was formed as an alternative to the EEC customs union, and today four countries are members. Besides the internal free trade area, EFTA also make free trade agreements with countries all over the world. This is a much better way than the EU customs union, and will easily replace it.

Three of the member states have the EEA agreement with the EU. The outcome of this includes the EFTA court and other activities that can easily be closed along with the EU institutions.

Transition away from the EU

The many European cooperation organisations can easily replace the actual cooperation in the EU, but in a better and more democratic framework. And the grassroots democracy and cooperation shall take over much of the decisionmaking.

The eurocrats and EU politicians shall get favourable economic conditions during and for the first years after the end of the EU. They are used to a high income and it can be a difficult fase for them to adjust to living on a more normal wage.

Financial solidarity should increase and not decrease between rich and relatively poor countries in Europe. At least it can become more efficient and thereby have more effect for the same amount of money than present EU programs. The EEA financial mechanism can be an inspiration, as well as the Swiss European programs. It is important to ensure local influence as well as the right of the donors to avoid corruption. A large part of these projects should be on environment protection and railways. The aid should of course include all European countries, not only the present EU countries. But most important all European countries shall fullfill the UN demand of a development aid of at least 0,7 % of BNP, and the richest countries shall give much more.

Instead of the EU common agriculture policy there should be a European convention, for example under UNECE, and preferable in the longer run a global one, ensuring that national and local agriculture policies and subsidies doesn't harm the environment or small farms and that subsidies are not used to export dumping.

The international framework for cooperation on fisheries should be reinforced and should be greened taking inspiration from the fisheries policies of the Faroe Islands.

The State of the EU

The EU was and is a project for the political and administrative ruling class, which could use the EU-system and institutions to avoid popular influence on decisions.

The EU is pushing and performing a neoliberal agenda by undemocratic means.

The EU is created under other names in the 1950s mirroring the values of ruling classes at time, a time when environment and ressources were not considered. The values of the time can be identified with EU basic values; centralisation of power, overbureaucracy, centralised and dangerous large scale solutions like nuclear power, top priority to eternal economic growt over the environment.

These times democracy was also seen as obstacle against progress or even worse the road to dictatorship.

This was based on the flase myth that the people put Hitler in power, the fact being that it was the corporative clique around the far to powerfull president that did it.

Actually the Greens were formed as a reaction against the tecnocratic and bureaucratic policies and their effects very visible around 1970 and this is the path that the European Greens are returning to now.

The European Union is a historical success story for big business and the corporate elites, creating lower wage shares, higher profit shares, killing of the lead on fields like environment for individual European states and subsidies for nuclear power and other unsustianable technologies. The membership of the EU has led to a loss of democratic influence and in some countries also a deroute for the social welfare.

The common agriculture policies of the EU kills development in large parts of Africa. That is not peace, it is a war. Besides that the CAP kills much nature in Europe.

At the moment, the EU is in a political crisis. This became clear through the outcome of the referenda in the Netherlands and France. Presently, the debate about the EU is dominated by two perspectives: there is strong scepticism towards the EU, its lack of democratic transparency, its bureaucracy and towards what is perceived as the dominance of neo-liberal economic policies within the EU. This combines with a fear, shared by many people, of losing control over their own lives. People are hoping for high social, environmental, consumer and other standards and protect them from the negative effects of economic globalisation. Many agree that the EU is not performing and delivering as it should. Some even realise the connections with the fundamental defects of the EU construction and system. Instead we should have an international framework making it possible for the peoples in Europe and their states to defend and develop their different social models.

The loss of political influence for ordinary people on local and national level has also contributed to a political context of growing support for conservative and even nationalist ideologies in different member countries.

The choice for enlargement has been insufficiently accompanied by a strengthening of the civil society, the democratic procedures and institutions.

The EU is faced with a democratic deficit at different levels.. Important aspects or domains of European decision-making escape democratic control The outcome of the referenda showed that large sections of the European population do not recognize themselves in the policies that are pursued in the EU. In the eyes of many European citizens the EU has, just as so many national governments, chosen a path of competition instead of cooperation. Many European citizens have the true impression that they cannot influence what happens in the EU, whereas strong economic lobbies do have direct access to the decision-making process.

In its functioning and structure the EU has relatively invested too much in the logic of a market-driven competitive development and too little in the promotion of solidarity. The contrast between on the one hand the 'hard law' of monetary rules and on the other hand the 'soft law' of the open coordination method in social policies is illustrating.

The arguments a growing group of politicians use in the enlargement debate are worrying. One cannot at the same time want a broad enlargement and not want to invest the necessary amount of money. Thinking that solidarity can be postponed or avoided is a dangerous strategy that may lead to short-term political advantages, but may cause a heavy political price in the longer term, e.g. when security issues are concerned. It is to take a closer look at the winners and losers of current policies (e.g. the Common Agricultural Policy)

The way the globalisation process is organised has led to a deeply rooted fear among the citizens. Social 'certainties' are evaporating, together with the trust citizens had in their institutions. The mainly economic globalisation process needs a stronger political answer. The EU is a motor of a negative globalisation process instead of being the solution for the many problems citizens perceive. This became clear in the discussion on e.g. the neoliberal 'Bolkenstein Service Directive', the port service directive, the working time directive and the pressure of the Commission to open the market for Genetically Modified Organisms.

And more fundamentally the effects of an unsustainable lifestyle can no longer be ignored or 'exported' to the other side of the world or the future generations. Up till recently the rich countries of (Western) Europe succeeded in keeping the negative fall-out of globalisation outside their doors. This is no longer true. Only a choice for ecological justice, which means that these same European countries will have to drastically reduce their ecological footprint as a precondition for a just and sustainable development of other parts of the world, can open the door to a safer and fair future.

Our Green political Vision on Europe's Future

For us Greens it is important that every country has the right to work as an international actor for peace and human rights, like Norway does, instead of being locked in an obligation to align with the EU. We must take a stand for a sustainable future, safeguard social welfare enhance consumer rights and health protection and stand for democracy, diversity and the rule of law. Supernational legislation should be in the form of international conventions like in the Council of Europe to ensure a chance for democratic participation of ordinary people.

A Peace Project

Peace in the EU has become "normal", which is the same that happened for the Nordic countries more than 100 years before the EU was founded. Thus it is not a historic success for the EU. The OSCE is a solid base

for common security with all countries Solidarity, expressed in stronger and efficient democratic institutions is essential if we want peace and security for the next generations. The international community also expects European countries to play a global role for peace and human rights. A unipolar world with the USA as "sheriff" is not a safe world, nor is a world of multipolar conflicts or a bipolar world of two superpowers. European countries must work on the basis of multilateralism, with priority to prevention, disarmament and non-military conflict resolution.

A sustainable Future

Everyday life and local direct democracy should be the place where a sustainable and fair future takes shape. It is up to everyone to do it and to take the political power to make it possible. We need to systematically make green choices in environmental, energy, transport, agricultural, consumer and scientific issues. Environmental policy also is economic innovation policy and creates jobs and economic opportunity. To invest in ecological sustainability is an investment in justice and security. Therefore we need ambitious policy targets and instruments to limit climate change, to create a sustainable transport structure, to preserve and strengthen biodiversity, to develop a sustainable agriculture (with respect for the Global South), and to support a research policy aiming at a more sustainable development.

The vast majority of Europeans support a Social safety net, which values social justice, gender justice, worker and consumer rights and environmental and health protection highly. To safeguard this we need an international convention ensuring the right of all countries to secure their social models by legislation, taxation etc. Neither do we want to isolate from the rest of the world. Nor do we want to pursue and export a lifestyle that weighs so heavily on our planet. Dealing with the environmental challenge therefore is a matter of social justice within our own societies as well as world-wide.

Consumer Rights and Health Protection

No matter if bird-flue or dioxin, in times of crisis consumers expects protectiong of their rights and their livelihood. Guaranteeing consumer rights in an open market is equally important, e.g. when consumers want safe food free of Genetically Modified Organisms. The EU is a treat against consumer and health protection

A Green Market Economy

Competitiveness should be compatible with pursuing general interest objectives and in particular with environmental protection and social cohesion. A central Green focus of economic policy is our strategy of reducing the dependency on fossil fuels particularly the oil dependency and of guaranteeing a nuclear-free energy system. We pursue an innovation path that combines energy efficiency, energy saving and the development of renewable energies. Stopping harmful tax competition is part of this task.

A global Player for a more just Globalisation

We need to give every country the right to play as a strong global player to promote fair globalisation. European countries should use co-operations and alliances with other global actors as well as with a disadvantaged continent as Africa to thus redirect international policies and institutions, including the WTO and the IMF. Greens stand for fair trade. We support the introduction of a Tobin type tax. We want to cooperate with developing countries and emerging powers in the promotion of sustainable development. The globalisation of capital flows also requires a globalisation of democratic policy. This implies a stronger role for the UN, the international rule of law and the support of international justice. In contrary to what USA and the EU commission tried to pass on the Johannesburg UN summit, international conventions should be made to ensure that local, regional, national and international environment and health protection regulation always overrules interest and agreements favouring trade and business.

Democracy, Diversity, Migration and the Rule of Law

There is no question that the European Union still has to improve in terms of democratic procedures. Council of Europe and the OSCE has played and continues to play an important role to safeguard and demand democratic procedures and institutions in its member states, as well as the empowerment of women. This positive effect is true for old and new member states alike They shall also continue in fighting racism, homophobia, xenophobia and anti-Semitism as well as in guaranteeing humanitarian standards for refugees, fair regulation for the integration of immigrants and the rule of law in the fight against international terrorism and organised crime.

National Parliaments

Subsidiarity

Subsidiarity is the EU principle that ensures that power initially is at the Union level and can be delegated to lower levels on specific issues, but also always taken back to the EU. This is the opposite of the Green principle of autonomy, in which the local level got the power initially and always can take it back.

Political Parties

The EU European political parties is a totalitarian construction. It should be up the various political organisations to decide how they want to organize themselves.

Court of Justice

The European Court of Justice has played an unusual role in pushing integration into levels not wanted or foreseen by politicians and voters, especially in fields benefitting corporate business. We will not miss it.

Citizen's Direct Participation

Direct grassroots democracy on local level and upwards is an important part of the Europe and the World we want to create. It is not likely that the necessary changes will come from the politicians in power today or the ones that want to put themselves in power instead. Citizens initiatives should be able to be decisive like in the Swiss system, and not like the parody in the rejected EU constitutional proposal.

Future Enlargement of the EU

Greens do not want to slam the door in the face of present and possible future accession candidates. The only European organisation that keeps Turkey out is the EU. Thus Turkey should not be the issue, the EU should.

As long as the EU exists it is important that countries like Norway and Iceland stay out of the EU to be able to show the possibility of more sustainable policies in reality in Europe and play a more constructive role on global level than the EU join.

Stabilisation and peace on the Balkans must stay a key priority regional cooperation between the countries of the Western Balkans is important

The undemocratic EU tradition of neglecting the no-votes in referenda in Denmark and/or in Ireland in the past, should ended now.

The Constitutional Treaty amended as we propose, i.e. the genuinely constitutional result of the Convention's work, should be ratified in a pan-EU plebiscite by dual majority parallel to the upcoming 2009 European Elections. The exact modalities should be decided during the second half of 2008 by the new Convention and the European Council. Greens will campaign for this referendum EU wide.

We are convinced that this proposal, which calls upon the European citizens to break the deadlock, is the best way to overcome Europe's constitutional crisis. A common constitutional decision that involves not only EU political institutions but the European public and every citizen is the adequate answer to national narrow-mindedness and national divisions. We strongly believe that nothing less radical will work and that European citizens, when called upon to take the continents history into their hands, will move Europe forward. In this context we would welcome political initiatives to promote a structural enhanced cooperation with the aim of speeding up the European integration process.

Greening Europe

European Greens offer a "greening" strategy, led by our vision on Europe's future.

Europe as a Peace Project

The horrors of the Second World War have taught Europeans to see the use of force not as self-assertion but as failure. This peace made EU and European cooperation possible, not the other way around. To settle conflicts not by intimidation and violence, but by rules, negotiation and jurisdiction. Most Europeans are warm supporters of multilateral organizations such as the United Nations and the International Criminal Court. They are against military force as long as peaceful means of conflict resolution have not been exhausted. Unfortunately, the citizens are more peaceful than their politicians.

The shortcomings and errors of US foreign policy in tackling today's security threats, such as terrorism, the spread of weapons of mass destruction, failed states, organized crime and climate change, are all too obvious. We need global diplomacy, cultural dialogue, fair trade, development aid and the promotion of international law.

Military interventions should always be carried out in conformity with the UN Charter with the aim of achieving lasting peace, not to secure oil supplies and the like. A common EU foreign and Security policy inspire fear into Europe's neighbours or its own citizens. We do not want a European superpower, a European state and an artificial European identity. Superpowers are always dangerous for peace and freedom.

Creating a sustainable Future

Improved protection of the environment and resource base is one of the most important tasks Euro barometer polls show that over two thirds want decision-makers to give equal weight to environmental, economic and social policies.

However, while there are improvements in some areas, on the balance, pressure on the environment is increasing. Total global use of natural resources is estimated to be about 20 per cent above what the planet can produce. The average citizen of EU-25 uses more than twice the global average.

Clearly, this is unsustainable. We must reduce the environmental impact of our production and consumption patterns to sustainable levels, or our children will pay the price. Consumption of resources and ecological services must be more equitably shared; the alternative is increased conflict over declining resources.

The EU has led to specific improvements in environmental protection, but also to environmental destruction in each of its member states. In some countries measures to protect the environment come mainly from the EU, but at the same time other policies like the CAP, free movement of pesticides and subsidies for motorways have a destructive effect on the environment. Some countries even have had to lower their protection levels to conform with single market regulation, and especially improvements on national level are made impossible.

Environmental concerns are given lower priority than "competitiveness", for example in chemicals policy, transportation and energy. We need to recognise that ecologically sustainable use of our resources is a in the long term a precondition for employment and economic progress, and can even improve them in the short term.

In particular, the free movement of goods must not be given higher priority than protection of the environment and health. In the absence of adequate environmental and competition safeguards, further market integration can have serious consequences both for the environment and environmental policy.

Basic principles of environmental policy, the "polluter pays" principle, the precautionary principle, and the principle of rectification of pollution at source, are important and must be implemented. These principles must be supplemented by the substitution principle for dangerous chemicals, the principle of the conservation of biodiversity, and the principle of keeping resource use and environmental impact within the fair share of environmental space or ecological footprint of Europe.

We must hasten decoupling the increase of economic growth from an increase in resource use and environmental impact. Resource use and environmental impact must be decreased in absolute terms at a factor 10.

Integration of environmental and animal welfare concerns into other policies, must be implemented in practise. In particular, an environmental fiscal reform is needed, whereby resource use and environmental pressures are taxed and other taxes or funding sources are reduced. It is also urgent to phase out environmentally harmful subsidies. Other priority areas for increased integration of environmental requirements into sectorial policies are research, structural funds, agriculture fisheries, transportation and energy.

Euratom needs to be scrapped Instead we should support the UNECE agency for a sustainable transformation of our energy system. Countries which have developed their wealth during the era of cheap fossil fuels have the resources and the responsibility to develop and introduce technology which is clean, efficient and increasingly based on renewable resources. This should be a prime focus of European research and development.

We can achieve the goal of a sustainable Europe with an attractive quality of life, but it will require a change of focus for decision-makers at all levels. It will require a re-orientation of policies, research and investments, and reconsideration of out-dated ideas about what is necessary for a good life. The European Green Party and its national member parties will continue to work together for concrete actions towards this goal on the European, national and local levels.

Strengthening the European Social Model

For the Greens, the sustainable development of the European societies fully encompasses the social dimension. The European Union gives top priority to the single market, putting the national welfare systems in unbound competition with each other, leading them (as well as the fiscal and environmental protection systems) to a downward spiral. This is something Greens stand firmly opposed to.

For Greens, welfare systems, in order to be sustainable and successful, must enjoy widespread support among the population they serve and therefore be built upon its shared values. Since those may differ from country to country, it follows that there is no "one size fits all" welfare system and that the choices in terms of systems – and of the way they should be transformed in a globalised economy – should be primarily left to the member-states. Cooperation between any number of them in order to reach a greater convergence can only be voluntary but would most certainly be welcome.

Regarding services of general interest, Greens consider that services such as education, health, public transportation, drinking water should not be subject to market mechanisms. In other domains, the choice between liberalization or not should be left at the appropriate local, regional or national level, without however allowing undue monopolistic advantages in markets that are liberalized.

Greens consider that an UNECE European convention should set minimum rates of corporate, capital and environment taxation, thereby preventing unbound competition between member-states and allowing them to have the means to fund their welfare systems on a sufficient and better balanced manner (away from a labour-base only). All countries should set a minimum level of subsistence or "basic wage", taking into account national differences, thereby ensuring a downward limit to the effects of competition. The Council of Europe including the European Human Rights Court should also enhance its work on non-discrimination, especially as regards gender, ethnic origin, disabilities and sexual orientation.

Consumer Rights and Health Protection

The big food and health scares of the past years (BSE, Dioxin, Salmonella, and MPA etc) have undermined consumer's trust in food, especially in meat and processed food, but also in the ability of politicians to solve the problems. The European Union and its Single Market has made this worse

The precautionary principle to food production must not be limited to residues or end-of-the-pipe controls on final products. Verifiable standards guaranteeing healthy food products must be enforced all the way throughout the production process, from the cultivation of crops and fodder to the final processing. These standards are required by the regulation on organic farming and should in the future also be applied for conventional food production, be it from agriculture, fishing or fish farming. European Greens want all agriculture to be organic as soon as possible.

In order to make better and healthier food, it is necessary to

- discourage intensive and rationalised farming and fish farming practice through strict enforcement of environmental, animal welfare and food safety legislation;
- enforce standards which guarantee food safety, without limiting the necessary flexibility of implementation needed to maintain and diversify regional and local food production;
- enlarge the definition of quality standards, in order to include the wide differences of food culture and taste;
- provide consumers with all relevant information about a product's origin and the way in which it was produced
- effectively control the implementation of food laws at all stages of food production;
- apply the precautionary principle throughout the whole food chain and establish clear rules on liability;
- stimulate consumers' choice for a healthy diet.

But food quality is only one aspect to enhance health and consumer rights. Consumer protection and public health must be present in all policies (industrial, trade, agriculture, regional, food, etc).

Greens acknowledge the increasing demand from consumers for medical pluralism including alternative medicine. consumers ask for more freedom of choice and demand more information and expertise.

Greens acknowledge that the increase of allergies, cancers, respiratory infections, reproduction problems, obesity, degenerative diseases (Alzheimer, Parkinson etc...) etc... are largely due to the modifications of environment (pollution, pesticides, chemicals, climate change, food, etc...).

In this frame, Greens are committed to promote a strong regulation on chemicals. Toxic contamination through chemicals has to be stopped. A rigorous evaluation of safety risks has to be assured. And all countries and local authorities should have the right to deny access for chemicals they consider harmful and products including them.

At the same time we are facing new world outbreaks. Avian flue, AIDS, ARS, are crossing not only the country borders but also the species borders, and affecting humans. Council of Europe work together with member states in the field of preventing illnesses and diseases and protecting human health.

Furthermore, Greens ask for the enhancement of the rights of consumer protection organizations. Regulation on door-to-door sales, consumer credits, distance selling, package tours, product liability should be strengthened.

A Green Market Economy for Europe

The Greens are in favour of competition rules in the economy, provided they consist of instruments aimed at achieving an objective, rather than being themselves an objective per se. The objective of competition rules should be to improve the quality of products and services, to extend consumers' choice and to allow affordable prices. A Green market economy means that competitiveness should be compatible with pursuing general interest objectives, and in particular social cohesion and environmental protection, which are the cornerstones of sustainable development. This implies that promoting small and medium enterprises should include social enterprises and cooperatives.

There are ecological limits to economic development. This is particularly evident in the light of the energy issue. With the turning point of the so-called peak-oil crisis expected to occur in the next ten years, Europe needs more than ever a new energy culture. A massive uptake of renewable energy sources is necessary, as well as increased changes in the modes of transport and efforts in terms of energy efficiency and conservation. Regulatory instruments, including fiscal tools, should be used to encourage the development of new market actors in the renewable energy sector. Similarly, the development of a knowledge-based economy should be coherent with a sustainable development strategy. The research and development policy and the innovation policy should focus on environment-friendly technologies. Indeed, eco-efficiency is the most evident characteristic of modern, advanced economies.

The focus should be on public and private investment in order to reduce unemployment. What Europe needs is to boost the public and private expenditures in eco-efficient technologies and their dissemination in the economic production. The new market procurement legislation should also be used to foster the demand for such technologies. Fiscal policy should also serve sustainable development. Europe needs more fiscal cooperation, rather than fiscal competition, in order to preserve and enhance the financial means required for ambitious public policies. In this respect, a European coordination of environmental tax reforms and of company taxation is desirable.

Services of general interest are pillars of a sustainable development strategy. Europe needs strong and modern services of general interest. These services already account for more than 35% of total employment in the present EU and are central to the development of a successful knowledge-based economy. It is therefore essential to ensure that there is growth in public supply and expenditure on these services. Public authorities at all levels, which are democratically accountable to the citizens, must be free to choose how to finance and organise these services. A European convention should confer legal certainty to these principles.

Europe as Actor for a more just Globalisation

A Green and global sustainable economy is a more local based economy where resource use and transport is minimized.

The choice for a far reaching eco-efficiency strategy is a condition for a just globalisation.

Greens encourage regional-continental cooperation processes in other parts of the world based on democratic values and the full respect of human rights (Africa, Latin-America, etc.).

Greens encourage the development of services of general interest. They are aware of the key role played by public authorities in the economic development

Greens see it as an obligation to preserve and enhance the effectiveness of public spending. overly restrictive fiscal and monetary policies represent obstacles which prevent public authorities from properly addressing social and environmental needs.

Greens encourage a research-development (R&D) policy which is coherent with sustainable development; R&D and innovation should focus on environment-friendly technologies; fundamental research should at least be equally developed as applied research; education should be a priority.

The IMF, the World Bank and the WTO should be reformed and be integrated into the UN system. The WTO, more particularly, should be deeply reformed both in its internal organisation and in its objectives, which should consist of promoting high social and environmental standards in international trade.

Free trade must be compatible with fair trade. This means that prices must mirror the real social and environmental costs linked to production and transport.

Sustainability should be inherent to all development policies. Development objectives have to be based on human rights principles, poverty reduction, conflict prevention, democratic participation and empowerment of women as well as energy efficiency, consumers' rights and preserving of the environment. A "Tobin type tax" on the movement of capital, must be created with the twofold objective to fight financial speculation and to raise funds for the development. We are devoted to reaching the goal of 0.7% of Official Development Assistance by 2015, excluding debt relief from being ODA-accredited. The process towards reaching this objective itself should be accelerated in all European States. Greens do support fighting the existing "Tax paradises" and demand additional measures to reduce the debt of developing countries in the framework of the HIPC Programme.

Democracy, Diversity and the Rule of Law

For Greens democracy is a fundamental value. Democracy includes fair representation, citizen participation and direct democratic instruments. There is a growing criticism about the limits of democratic involvement. Greens share the demand for an extension of instruments to allow better civic participation. One instrument that could become a new source of democratic legitimacy is the referendum. Another instrument is the popular initiative which could forge new links between citizens, NGOs and political parties that would campaign together. In European civil society NGOs that represent social, cultural, legal and environmental interests play an important role. These groups should be granted more access to political decision making. Therefore Greens support NGOs in getting consultative status with those institutions relevant to their area of work.

Migration

Not often in history, have so many people endeavoured to build a new life far from home. The dream of a better existence is globalizing at the same speed as the flows of trade and information. Many migrants risk their lives to reach European territory.

However high fences, however strict border controls may be, illegal migrants will continue to come, if only because there is a demand for their labour in Europe. As migration cannot be stopped, we should start regulating it, taking advantage of the migrants' talents and energy. The interests of the labour migrants' countries of origin must also be taken into account, for instance by promoting circular forms of migration whereby migrants use the skills and capital they have acquired in Europe for the development of their home country. All rich countries should destine more resources to the eradication of poverty and the development of permanent democratic structures in the poorer part of the world.

Concerning the refugee policy the goal to ensure the respect of the Geneva Convention all over the EU has failed. The only chance to reverse the downward spiral is a new, more direct democratic process,

Asylum seekers are to be treated with dignity and respect as they await the results of their applications. Solidarity is needed to prevent some EU countries being overburdened by this task while others hardly contribute to refugee protection. The Dublin Convention, which stipulates that asylum seekers must file their application in the country where they enter the EU, should be abandoned.

Justice

It is important to combat cross-border crime and terrorism. Nowadays, however, the increasing justice and police cooperation too often encroaches upon fundamental rights such as privacy and the right to a fair trial. In the coming decades, technology will become available for governments to put all their residents under permanent surveillance. The Greens reject such a *Big Brother* society, which is now developing in the EU. Fundamental rights include the principle of non-discrimination. This principle should be rigorously enforced so as to prevent governments from treating entire segments of their populations as terrorism suspects. A country that uphold individual freedoms and tolerance, it can become a magnet for creative talents from all over the world.

Therefore, the European Convention on Human Rights is not only good for people, but also for the economy. It should be made explicit that the fight against serious cross-border crime does not extend itself to issues such as abortion, voluntary euthanasia or the local sale of soft drugs.

Conclusion

The only realistic, acceptable and green way to unite Europe is without the EU. The Green proposals of a new Europe based on local direct democracy, global responsibility and European cooperation including Council of Europe, OSCE, UNECE and EFTA, will give people and states better tools towards tackling efficiently and effectively the major challenges that we face as citizens of the Earth, of which we mentioned some of the key ones above. In content one of the major solutions is a vast reduction in resource consumption. Last but not least, we need all social actors – NGO's, trade unions, ... - who are both mobilized by those issues and rightfully concerned by the apparent inability and unwillingness of the Union to address them, to find ways to jointly build up the pressure to force the changes outlined above.

We as European Greens are prepared to live up to this challenge. We also know that we will not achieve this alone, and that we do not own all the solutions. Each and every day all politicians should ask themselves what they have done this particular day to give each ordinary inhabitant more power over hers/his own life and the development of the world. This also our obligation as greens, and a realization of this outline of a socially and ecologically sustainable future of Europe be an important part.

Preamble

OUR EUROPEAN PERSPECTIVE

001 Amendment « Les Verts » 1 : Introduction

Replace total of "*Our European Perspective*" with following text

In the last thirty years European society has witnessed the collapse of the Soviet command economy, and the triumph of an increasingly deregulated form of capitalism. The collapse of the Soviet system may be regarded as a positive historical event insofar as its inability to compete with capitalism in the mass production of consumer goods, compelled it to suppress the liberties of the people under its rule and to exacerbate the worst aspects of its ideological and historical roots. However, the ideology that has now come to predominate all over Europe holds access to an unlimited supply of goods and services to be the supreme purpose of all social systems. We Greens do not subscribe to this ideology, which necessarily leads to environmental problems on an unprecedented scale, to an exhaustion of the our biological support systems and geological resources and to a deterioration of the relations between human beings on multiple levels.

This even more unsustainable form of capitalism, which is experiencing enormous growth not only in Europe but even more so in other parts of the planet, is in the process of creating two intertwined crises: the depletion of the oil which powers our economies and global warming which will trigger massive population displacements with, as of now, unpredictable but certainly deleterious consequences.

There are no institutions in the world today capable of facing up to such crises. All the major ideological systems are ill-suited to the analysis of the ecological conundrum when they are not direct contributors to its making.

The institutions of Europe and the major parties that have shaped the political cultures of Europe cannot escape that rule. It is this situation which rendered the foundation of Green parties necessary in all countries. We do not, however, possess off the shelf solutions; considerable research and experimentation will be required over decades to revamp our societies along sustainable lines. Nonetheless, we do have a framework in which all efforts to build a sustainable Europe in a world free of social exploitation, ecological depredation and human rights violations must be analyzed.

The deregulated capitalist system and the ideology which helps to sustain it are not only in the process of destroying our environment, they have also damaged the regulatory framework which the people of Europe had managed to create to alleviate the harshest aspects of this system. Mass unemployment now exist in various parts of Europe. But more than that, it is job insecurity and the frequent inadequacy between income and the cost of living (particularly the cost of housing) which is wearing down our social fabric. These problems are compounded by the crises of the various social protection systems, which are partly related to demographic problems but also

involve ideological prejudice and the appetites of the financial and insurance sectors of the economy.

In turn, this growing social insecurity hacks away at the will to deal with environmental problems. It creates an atmosphere of unhealthy competition, of "every man for himself and God for all" which precludes rational long-term analysis and discourages solidarity and cooperation. Security becomes something to be bought and hoarded, partly at the expense of other competitors, rather than a collective arrangement. Insecurity also feeds aggression, which is exploited by right-wing demagogues.

This is not a context favorable to building sustainable societies.

Given the scale of the existing and emergent crises, Europe cannot yet pride itself on being on the transition to sustainability. In Europe as in other parts of the world there exists mild public acceptance that the dangers Green parties warn about are real and that they should be confronted, but in Europe few are inclined to take the necessary steps to break from mindless consumption and truly embrace sustainability. In both Europe and the United States private companies zealously pursue their short term profitability in increasingly competitive market. Most people depend on them for jobs and are subjected to massive pounding of commercial propaganda. They are alienated both as workers and consumers. In all countries steps are taken to combat environmental degradation, to improve working conditions but they remain unsystematic and unable to turn the tide of consumption and pollution generated by the current form of the capitalist system.

The Greens do not view the building of the European Union as an objective in itself, however legitimate such a view might be, but as an effort to build a force that can act positively on a world scale to rein in the destructive economic growth of the wealthier countries and promote sustainable growth in the poorer regions of the world. Because this approach does not yet hold sway with the majority of Europeans, it hardly makes sense for us to analyze all the different reasons which have caused the current deadlock in European relations. Our role as Greens is simply to explain to all those who closely or loosely share our aims how we see each positive step the European Union takes can help us effectuate our stated goals, or how each failure brings us closer to the catastrophes which we have foreseen.

Nearly all Greens agree we need a stronger Europe, but vast portions of our electorate and membership and the majority of people realize that the construction of the Union has largely proceeded from the need to achieve more profits and in some sense greater productivity for the large corporations that hold some much power in today's world. They inevitably compare the benefits accruing large corporations to the paltry solutions offered by the system to the problems they face from day to day. Many of them conclude that Europe has done nothing for them and their close ones and wonder why they should cast a vote in favour of the system. This is an objective fact and by far the weightiest factor conditioning the lack of acceptance for the European Union. It is the first factor which must be addressed if we want a green future for Europe.

1.The state of the EU

102 Amendment tabled by the Romanian Greens

Page 2, line 40:

New formulation: promotion of human rights, with accent on fighting discrimination and privileges demanded by any groups, no matter how they call themselves.

103 Amendment « Les Verts » 3 :

Page 2, line 42: add

Unfortunately, the prevailing logic has been one of never-ending economic growth.

110 Amendment tabled by Italian Greens

page 3, line 18-19: "Important aspects or domains of European decision-making escape democratic control on the national or European level and remain firmly in the hands of member states GOVERNMENTS AND administrations. The division of competences among the different levels contributed to the fact that the EU is perceived as doing too much in some domains and can do too little in others."

2. Our Green political Vision on Europe's future

203 Amendments tabled by the FYEG

p. 4, line 19: ...

In the sentence beginning with :

The economic aspiration of the EU should be that of a Green market economy.

Delete: 'market'

A Peace Project

206 Amendment tabled by Romanian Greens

Page 4 (31) New formulation: A unipolar world with one country as "sheriff" ...

Note: The Greens worldwide are not against any country. But.... Chechens will like to incriminate Russia, Tibetans – China, Arabs – Israel and so on. Regarding the wrong decisions taken by some countries, the Greens will criticise those measures and their authors, no matter who they are. But we do not nominate apriori any countries.

207 Amendment tabled by ECOLO

P4, Line, 32

Suppression of « with the USA as sheriff »

209 Amendment tabled by ECOLO (REQUESTING TO WITHDRAW)

P.4, line 38-39

Suppression of the sentence:

"While being far from perfect, the establishment of relatively high environmental standards in the EU is one of its success stories".

211 Amendment « Les Verts » 10 :

Page 4, line 41-42: Replaces: Environmental policy also is economic innovation policy and creates jobs and economic opportunity

Policies that preserve and repair the environment can stimulate economic innovation, creating new work opportunities

Strengthening our European Social Model

No amendments to be voted

The European social tradition

No amendments to be voted

Consumer Rights and Health Protection

No amendments to be voted

A green Market Economy

Here we will discuss and decide the topic of 'green market economy' using all amendments you find under 659 to 663 on page 11 of this document. The decision here will count for the amendments there to.

229 Amendment « Les Verts » 16 :

Page 5, line 18-19:ADD

For the Greens, shared progress in pursuit of the general interest and especially environmental protection and social cohesion comes before competition and competitiveness.

A global player for a more just Globalization

No amendments to be voted

Democracy, Diversity, Migration and rule of law

No amendments to be voted

3. A democratic Architecture for a performing EU

No amendments to be voted

European Parliament

311 Amendment tabled by Dei Greng (Luxembourg)

Page 6 / Lines 30-32:

Delete the three lines

Exclusively voting by qualified majority (QMV) and abandoning the national vetoes without giving precisions cannot be the first step. For a large majority of fields this is true. But in some fields, the national policies and traditions need to get closer before we can make this step. Moreover, there are policy fields where national states must keep not the exclusive competence but at least the last word. First we must clarify the fields where the EU should be competent for decision-making and where not. For example, in a later chapter we demand that military interventions should be authorized by each national parliament – a de facto parliamentary veto. Moreover, we also want the member states to keep some autonomy with their social or employment policies, especially services of general interest. But we also agree that we need a stronger EU social and employment policy, but do we really want to hand over these competencies to the present EU under the rule of QMV ?

National Parliaments

No amendments to be voted

315 Amendment tabled by Dei Greng

Page 6 / Lines 44-47:

Delete the first two sentences (4 lines) and replace by:

“National parliaments have to play a strong and active role in the political life of the EU. Their successful involvement all along the EU legislation process is the key to an increased transparency and a broader public acceptance by the citizens. Successful involvement must not be limited to the political control of their governments’ actions in the European arena or to the political control of the EU Commission by way of the subsidiarity check. Their European role should start with early analysis and opinions and - in case of a directive - ends with an elaborated and well-timed transposition at the national level. “

Subsidiarity

No amendments to be voted

Political Parties

320 Amendment tabled by the Groenlinks

Page 7, line 15

Add:

"We also think that the individual supportership and eventually the individual membership of European political parties will contribute to the European integration and more civic participation."

Explanation:

The individual participation of members of national parties is something European political parties can do themselves to enhance European integration and civic participation.

Court of Justice

No amendments to be voted

Citizen's Direct Participation

324 Amendment tabled by the ECOLO

P7, li.30-33

Delete sentences 30 to 33

"This citizens' initiative would not affect the right of initiative of the European Parliament and the Commission, but it obliges both institutions to act or, in case they decide not to follow the demand of the petition by a qualified majority vote, to explain publicly the reasons without unreasonable delay."

325 Amendment « Les Verts » 27

Page 7, line 35: add

The areas in which consultation of the Committee of the Regions is mandatory must be extended and the Committee's opinions must be given greater importance by obliging the institutions to give reasons for decisions which run counter to those opinions

4. Future Enlargement of the EU

403 Amendment tabled by the Cyprus Greens

Page 7 see lines further, replace lines with lines below

45. The EU has rightly stuck to its commitments towards Croatia and Turkey. We welcome the

45. The EU has fulfilled its commitments towards Croatia and Turkey. We welcome the

404 Amendment tabled by the Cyprus Greens

46. start of membership negotiations with these two countries. Despite this clear general

46. start of membership negotiations with these two countries. ~~Despite this clear general~~

405 Amendment tabled by the Cyprus Greens

47. approval, we have always made clear where we see the shortcomings in the reforms in these

~~47. approval,~~ we have always made clear where we see the shortcomings in the reforms in these

408 Amendment « Les Verts » 30

Page 7, line 53-54

Replaces : The European perspective for the Western Balkans has to be kept upright: stabilization and peace on the Balkans must stay a key priority for the EU in the coming years.

With: The prospect of closer ties with Europe must be kept firmly in view in the western Balkans, and stabilization and peace in this region must remain a priority for the EU during the next few years.

5. (How) Will we get a European Constitutional Treaty

504 Amendment tabled by Groenlinks

Page 8, lines 50-51

Replace:

“It should build on the basis laid by the 1st Convention. Therefore we reject any attempt to restart negotiations concerning a new treaty from scratch.”

By:

“It should build on the basis laid by the 1st Convention and focus on the controversial issues.”

Explanation:

We should avoid the impression that we want to shove the European Constitution down the throat of the French and Dutch no-voters, by preventing the Convention to address issues which were

controversial during the referendum debates. Issues like animal welfare, the status of public services or the remit of the EU's involvement in criminal law are of a constitutional nature since they revolve around the strengthening or demarcation of EU competencies. They cannot be avoided by simply splitting off part III from the present Constitution.

509 Amendment « Les Verts » 33:

Page 9, line 8: add after "new convention"

In addition, Article 3 of Part I should not include economic growth and the free market as aims of the European Union. These are matters of economic policy which have no place in a constitution.

511 Amendments tabled by Dei Greng (Luxembourg)

P9 / L11-12:

Delete: "parallel to the upcoming 2009 European Elections"

We strongly oppose the combination of elections and constitutional referendum. These are two separate and important things and should not be combined. Having a tradition of national and European elections being held the same day in Luxembourg, we see that it is quite impossible to properly campaign on a European program because the national issues completely contaminate the European debate. Therefore, the Luxemburg Green Party actually wants the splitting of these two elections. With the referendum it would be no different. It would have a strong - and in our opinion unhealthy - impact on the election outcome. Finally, the unavoidable polarization of the debate around a yes or a no is incompatible with the more complex possibilities of choice that voters have at elections.

512 Amendment tabled by the Italian Greens

page 9, line 13: " The exact modalities should be decided during the second half of 2008 by the new Convention, which will not include member states governments representatives and the European Council. Greens will campaign for this referendum Europe wide."

513 Amendments tabled by the Austrian Greens

p. 9 / 15: We are convinced that this proposal, which calls upon the European citizens to break the deadlock, is the best way to overcome Europe's constitutional crisis. A common constitutional decision that involves not only EU political institutions but the European public and every citizen is the adequate answer to national narrow-mindedness and national divisions. We strongly believe that nothing less radical will work and that European citizens, when called upon to take the continents history into their hands, will move Europe forward. ~~In this context we would welcome political initiatives to promote a structural enhanced cooperation with the aim of speeding up the European integration process.~~

Motivation:

„Structural enhanced cooperation“ is no longer a promising concept for deepening integration in the EU. On the contrary it would most likely strengthen existing conflicts within the union, building up and institutionalizing frontlines.

The idea of a „Europe of concentric circles“ in which some member states go ahead with deeper integration and others may join them later – best known is the existing „Euro-group“ - can no longer be supported. It might have been an interesting concept in a Union of 12 or 15. Now, with soon 27 member states that did not have time to adjust to one another and to build a solid political common ground to stand on, this concept would most likely lead to overlapping and contradictory circles. These circles would be based either on geographic and cultural similarities - it is easy to envision a Scandinavian or Mediterranean group - or on similarities in political areas. What's to stop, say, UK

and Poland with some others to go ahead with a structural enhanced cooperation in the area of social welfare? And how would the supposed Scandinavian group react to that?

These theoretic examples show that the concept of structural enhanced cooperation would strengthen and organize centrifugal forces within the Union. Instead of deepening integration, this approach would further fracture the EU and could even lead to outright blockade of integration or the loss of regional groups of member states.

From this point of view the call for structural enhanced cooperation contradicts our call for a new Convention, which aims at formulating a common ground for all member states and large majorities of their citizens.

It sure is difficult to envision all 27 members getting together and strengthening the integration, building the peaceful social and ecological Union that is so urgently needed. And seeing the state that the Council and the Commission are in can be frustrating. Nevertheless the EU had difficult times before and – surprisingly – it usually didn't take much to radically change Europe's political landscape and its future. Most of the time a group of people with the right arguments to push integration forwards in a position to formulate them was enough. If you think of Schuman and Delors it suddenly doesn't seem so far fetched anymore that this time the European Greens should become the motor for both deeper integration and enlargement..

514 Amendment « Les Verts » 35 :

Page 9, line 16-17: Replace : which calls upon the European citizens to break the deadlock, is the best way to overcome Europe's constitutional crisis.

which calls upon European citizens to choose freely whether to belong to a federation with democratic institutions

515 Amendement « Les Verts » 36

Page 9, line 17-18-19-20 Delete:

A common constitutional decision that involves not only EU political institutions but the European public and every citizen is the adequate answer to national narrow-mindedness and national divisions

516 Amendments tabled by the Austrian Greens

page 9, line 22-23: REPLACE In this context, we would like to point out, however, that forms of enhanced cooperation should promote the achievement of the Union's aims, preserve its interests and reinforce the process of integration and be open to all the Member States at any time. We also want to make it clear that these possible forms of cooperation should not be implemented to the detriment of the efforts being made to arrive without undue delay at a Constitution for Europe.

6. Greening Europe

No amendments to be voted

Europe as a Peace Project

602 Amendments tabled by ECOLO

P9, li.36

Replace the first sentence

"The European Union is a peace project and should remain one also in the future. by "The EU was built on a project of peace common to all European States"

313 Amendments tabled by the Romanian Greens

Page 9, line 39: adding: ...law, based on power, justice and honour. To settle ...

610 Amendment « Les Verts » 39

Page 10, line 9: Delete: Ultimately, the EU should have its own permanent seat in the Security Council.

613 Amendment tabled by ECOLO

P10, li.11

In the 1st sentence: "Even as a civil power the EU needs.....
replace military instruments. by its own military means."

503 Amendment tabled by the Swiss Greens

Page 9:

Replace line 39 to 52 by: TO PAGE 10 LINES 17-22

"The EU subordinates its security policy to the only global organization, which is legitimized to act beyond national borders: the United Nations. EU military interventions should only be undertaken if there is a mandate by the UN, by the European parliament and the national parliaments. Under no circumstances should EU military forces be used to repulse refugees or as internal police force. The EU renounces to export armaments in order to promote peace and disarmament. The EU endorses a Europe free of nuclear weapons and supports a ban of nuclear weapons in general."

Creating a sustainable future

617 Amendment tabled by Romanian Greens

Page 10, line 34:

Adding: "There is a need of a rational demographical policy and of a new policy - for using natural resources."

622 Amendment tabled by Groenlinks

Page 11, line 16

Add:

"The EU agricultural policy should make a radical shift towards ecological production, animal welfare and fair trade. Export subsidies for agricultural products are stopped immediately."

Explanation:

With this amendment, the important issue of the EU agricultural policy gets the attention it deserves. Both the need for a more sustainable production and a fairer policy for the least developed countries are addressed.

Strengthening the European Social Model:

623 Amendments tabled by ECOLO

P11, li. 36-37

Delete the sentence:

"Only if the social dimension of the EU is strengthened and is perceived as such by the citizens will the public support for the integration process increase.

625 Amendments tabled by ECOLO

P11, li. 49

Delete in the sentence the following words « in order to be sustainable and successful »

632 Amendment tabled by ECOLO

P12, li 7-8

Add "cultural and audiovisual matters, postal services". Delete "drinking" before "water"

634 Amendment « Les Verts » 46

Page 12, line 10-11 Delete : without however allowing undue monopolistic advantages in markets that are liberalized.

635 Amendment tabled by Dei Greng (Luxembourg)

P12 / L13:

Add a new first sentence: "Greens are convinced that we need a common European tax policy in order to stop the fatal tax competition between the member states. As a first step,"

And continue with the existing paragraph, starting after the 3rd word: "...the European Union should set minimum rates of corporate, capital and..."

636 Amendment tabled by Groenlinks

Page 12, lines 13-15

"The EU should encourage its member states to set a minimum level of subsistence or "basic wage", taking into account national differences, thereby ensuring a downward limit to the effects of competition."

Delete five words:

"encourage its member states to"

Explanation:

This would strengthen the social dimension of the EU in a very visible way without prescribing a 'one size fits all' approach.

637 Amendment « Les Verts » 47 :

Page 12, line 13-16 Replaces: Greens consider that the European Union should set minimum rates of corporate, capital and environment taxation, thereby preventing unbound competition between member-states and allowing them to have the means to fund their welfare systems on a sufficient and better balanced manner (away from a labour-base only).

We consider that the European Union should set social and fiscal criteria of convergence on levels of child poverty, long-term unemployment and corporate, capital and environment taxation, thereby preventing unbridled competition between member-states and allowing them to to fund their welfare systems adequately, in a more balanced way

638 Amendment tabled by FYEG

p. 12, line 18:

Add the following 3 sentences after the words "... to the effects of competition.

"EU has to oblige its member states to provide in a basic income for every citizen. A basic income ensures everyone (workers, unemployed, children, seniors) the means to foresee in its basic needs. In combination with a basic wage, EU should impose a redivision of work by reducing working hours to 30 hours a week but with the same wages as in the 38 hours working week."

Consumer Rights and Health Protection

643 Amendement « Les Verts » 50 : Citizen's Replaces : Consumer Rights and Health Protection

645 Amendment tabled by ECOLO

P12, li. 28 to P13, li. 25

Replace "consumer" by "citizen"

646 Amendement « Les Verts » 51 :

Page 12 line 29 Replace : consumer's

citizen's

A Green Market Economy for Europe

658 Amendement « Les Verts » 57 :

Page 13, line 26 ADD

Evolution of Health and Insurance Systems

All health and insurance systems, whatever the way they are run , are facing the same crisis, marked by a dramatic increase of expenses and an inability to stop chronic diseases progression, these last ones being mainly responsible of financial problems. For that reason, the Greens are against any change of solidarity systems towards private insurance systems. They are in favor of health policy not only focussed on cure , but taking into account environment and health education in order to act o deep causes of crisis.

659 Amendment tabled by FYEG SEE ALSO P5 226 AND 227

page 13, line 27:

Delete "market"

660 Amendment tabled by ECOLO

P13, li.27

Replace title by "Redefine the market economy through political ecology principles"

661 Amendment « Les Verts » 58 :

Downsizing our ecological footprint : A Green economic vision for Europe Replaces : A Green Market Economy for Europe

663 Amendment « Les Verts » 59

Page 13, line 27 to page 14, line 23 Delete : above paragraph (original and amendment)

664 2 Amendment « Les Verts » 60 :

Page 13, line 29-37 Replaces: The Greens are in favour of competition rules in the economy, provided they consist of instruments aimed at achieving an objective, rather than being themselves an objective per se. The objective of competition rules should be to improve the quality of products and services, to extend consumers' choice and to allow affordable prices. A Green market economy means that competitiveness should be compatible with pursuing general interest objectives, and in particular social cohesion and environmental protection, which are the cornerstones of sustainable development. This implies that when promoting small and medium enterprises the EU should include social enterprises and cooperatives in these policies.

The Greens are in favour of competition rules and services of general interest in the economy, provided they are merely instruments aimed at achieving an objective, rather than being objectives in themselves. The aim of competition rules and services of general interest should be to improve the quality of products and services, to extend consumers' choice and to allow affordable prices. A Green economy means that competitiveness should be a means to pursuing general interest objectives, and in particular social cohesion and environmental protection, which are the cornerstones of sustainable development. This implies that when promoting small and medium enterprises the EU should promote social enterprises and cooperatives in these policies.

665 Amendment tabled by FYEG

p. 13, line 29-35.

Replace the paragraph starting with

"The Greens are in favour of competition rules in the economy, ... sustainable development.

Replace by:

"A green economy sees social cohesion and environmental sustainability as its main concerns. The goal of a green economy is to provide citizens with the products they need. In the framework of an economy that protects social cohesion and environmental sustainability, competition is possible and necessary. Competition improves the quality of products and services, and enables consumers the choice between products at affordable prices. But profits should not be the main goal of a company. The main goals are to provide workers with just incomes, to protect the environment and to promote well-being on the working floor. Profits should only serve to invest in more sustainable way of production and in ways to improve well-being on the working floor."

668 Amendments tabled by ECOLO

P13, li.32-39

Replace the sentences by "Whatever form the competitiveness principle takes, it can not create competition between objects of general interest, including the protection of the environment, solidarity and cultural diversity. Moreover, competition must be defined. For the Greens, this latter takes on meaning only if it increases the quality and accessibility of products and services."

669 Amendment « Les Verts » 61 :

Page 13, line 39-42 Replaces: There are ecological limits to economic development. This is particularly evident in the light of the energy issue. With the turning point of the so-called peak-oil crisis expected to occur in the next ten years, Europe needs more than ever a new European energy culture. A massive uptake of renewable energy sources is necessary, as well as increased changes in

There are ecological limits to economic development. This is particularly evident in the light of energy and climate change issues.

671 Amendments tabled by ECOLO

P13, li.50

Add "In this sense, the nuclear energy market is an example not to be followed. This goes against our conception of general interest and against our idea of competition. In terms of the buying price of impoverished uranium, the costs involved in stocking waste as well as the costs engendered to make sites secure, the price of nuclear energy is far too high."

672 Amendment « Les Verts » 63

Page 13, line 53-54 Delete: Through the changes brought in March 2005, the Stability and Growth Pact should provide for more adherence on the national levels, while allowing for more flexibility on the EU level.

673 Amendment tabled by FYEG

p. 13 add: What is left of the profits should be equally divided among all workers of the company.

674 Amendment by Irish Greens

Page 14, line 6

delete after 'tax reforms' - 'and of company taxation'

675 Amendment Commission Economie 8 Les verts:

Page 14, line 6 ADD

We propose that, ten years from now, corporate taxes become a direct source of revenue for the European Union .

677 Amendment « Les Verts » 65 :

Page 14, line 15 ADD

The social enterprise and voluntary sector must be granted recognition by a European directive. This sector of the economy, which ranges from co-operatives to small businesses via the many and varied forms of voluntary organisations, operates within the competitive framework and creates many jobs in innovative or burgeoning sectors such as the environment and services to individuals.

Europe as Actor for a more just Globalization

679 Amendment « Les Verts » 66 :

Page 14, line 26-31 Replaces: Neither an "*adaptive*" paradigm- based on the idea that globalisation is a phenomenon originating outside the EU, and to which the EU has to adapt - nor a "*protective*" paradigm - based on the idea that the EU (as a whole, or at the level of Member States) should reduce its involvement in the global economy through barriers against the free movement of goods, services, capital and persons – serves the interests of the citizens of the EU or of the rest of the world.

The Greens do not subscribe to an adaptive paradigm based on the notion that globalisation originated outside the EU, which must adapt to it.

683 Amendment « Les Verts » 68 :

Page 15, line 15: ADD

The Greens promote the idea of restricting access to the European market for goods whose production and/or distribution contravenes basic social and environmental requirements such as the WTO conventions.

684 Amendment « Les Verts » 69 :

Page 15, line 16: ADD

This also means that Europe must set an example and stop its overproduction of agricultural products. The surplus is currently dumped on foreign markets, including the markets of developing countries, with the help of subsidies. 'Managed trade' should be established so as to stop the production of surpluses and provide for the European market in the first place and connect to the world market in the second place. The least Developed Countries should generally have unlimited access to the European Market.

7. NO 7 Democracy, Diversity and the Rule of Law

701 Amendment tabled by the Romanian Greens

Page 15, Line 40: Amending: These groups should be granted more access to information and debating.

Note: NOT to political decision making, because these NGOs DO NOT DESIRE TO MAKE POLITICS (they want from politics just the rights, but not the duties that arise from making politics).

702 Amendment « Les Verts » and I Verdi corsi 70 :

Page 15, line 44 ADD

Access to culture for all, the recognition and safeguarding of all cultures, and the promotion of European languages and cultures in all their diversity must be guaranteed and facilitated by the EU.

The recognition of our language and culture and the freedom to practise and teach them are fundamental rights. So-called minority cultures and languages, which are still alive in some EU territories, must be recognised and enjoy the same rights as the present official languages and cultures.

703 Amendment « Les Verts » 71 :

Page 15, line 44 ADD

Although culture is at present substantially a matter of national policy, exchanges and cross-fertilisation between the various European cultures represent an opportunity. To raise awareness of the benefits of sharing this cultural diversity as widely as possible, we need to step up cultural exchanges such as twinning programmes between European towns and villages.

To help strengthen the sense of belonging to this diverse European culture, we must enable as many young people as possible to study in another European country, whether on academic or vocational courses, by increasing fivefold the budgets allocated to exchange programmes such as Erasmus, Socrates or Leonardo.

Migration

706 Amendment « Les Verts » 81 :

Page 15, line 50 ADD

Not only does the European Union refuse to legislate to integrate migrants without residency permits, many of whom are victims of human traffickers, it is attempting to compel their countries of origin to close their borders to emigrants, in denial of the right to free circulation in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

709 Amendment tabled by the Romanian Greens

Page 15, Page 45 - 55) Regarding migration:

Migration should be done only legal; within adopted by EU quotes.

Democratic states should help the third world countries to be their own masters in their homes, in democracy and freedom, to be able to work. The European Union should bring a massive economic support to fight poverty in its home, not to export it to Europe.

710 Amendment « Les Verts » 83

Page 16, line 1-2 Delete : Member states do not have to give up the right to determine the size of direct labour migration from outside the EU.

Justice

712 Amendment « Les Verts » 85

Page 16, line 35-37 Delete : If Europe manages to uphold individual freedoms and tolerance, it can become a magnet for creative talents from all over the world.

716 Amendment tabled by the Romanian Greens

Page 16 (44) Amending: instead of restrictive definition - correct definition, in the spirit of justice.

718 Amendment « Les Verts » 88 :

Page 16, line 56 ADD

Close co-operation with the Council of Europe will ensure that the EU is effective in the area of human rights will. The EU must have a seat on the Council of Europe, which in turn must be represented on the governing bodies of the Agency of Fundamental Rights.

Conclusion

No amendments to be voted