

C7 Building Pan-European Solidarity: Perspectives from Eastern Europe

Proposer: Georgian Young Greens
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Agenda item: 2 Resolutions

Text

1 The 2019 European Elections demonstrated that Greens have become a considerable
2 political power in the EU and we have Green Wave materialized in some EU Member
3 States as well. With the climate crisis being fought for becoming a priority in
4 the EU and outside, also major established political parties falling short on
5 people's expectations, it is projected that Greens will gain more traction in
6 the foreseeable future. This year Greens group in the European Parliament has 75
7 MEPs that gives them more leverage to engage and further Green agenda on the EU
8 and Member States levels as well as outside the Union. Especially, Green MEPs
9 that are subscribed to the relevant committees working on the EU external
10 policies will be able to position themselves and contribute to the policy-making
11 for the non-EU countries. And hopefully, with the coming years, Greens will be
12 able to significantly shape and influence the decision-making in the EU
13 institutions.

14 Federation of Young European Greens role in the upcoming years will also be
15 shifted towards more policy-oriented interventions and close cooperation with
16 the Greens in the European Parliament and European Green Party in order to voice
17 and equally deliver to young people in the EU. Nonetheless, FYEG being an
18 umbrella organisation comprises members coming from the EU Member States as well
19 as covers membership from non-EU countries (notably, most Eastern European
20 Member Organisations are striving outside party politics framework. Most of them
21 are NGOs and do not have bonds and relation with Green (mother) parties). While
22 the prospects of Green movement and especially young Greens in the EU seem more
23 clear and hopeful, Eastern Europe due to lack of regionalisation and platforming
24 opportunities renders it impossible for young Greens coming from non-EU
25 countries to engage or draw meaningful political conclusions with and from FYEG
26 in an equal footing as their counterparts from the EU member states. In
27 reference to the youth in Eastern Europe, it should not go unmentioned that
28 young people are in the forefront of change or demanding change in Eastern
29 Europe: In 2018 Armenia's peaceful revolution was brought by young people
30 showing their utmost disobedience after decades of silence and conformism.
31 Besides, Georgia's political system went through meaningful political changes
32 that makes it possible for young people and new political movements to penetrate
33 established political structures. In other countries of Eastern Europe, we see
34 young people striving to shape their present and future and reclaim their rights
35 captured by authoritarian figures or shrinking regimes. We should not forget
36 that change is in the process of making in Eastern Europe and we as Greens
37 should promote and support it as well as get ready for seizing the right
38 momentum for materializing Green Wave in Eastern Europe.

39 With this resolution, we aim to form a solid foundation for building genuine

40 pan-European solidarity in, with and through FYEG with its Member Organisations
41 (MOs) from Eastern Europe and bigger Green structures, such as the Greens group
42 in the European Parliament and European Greens Party. We believe that this
43 resolution will promote advocacy efforts of young Greens coming from Eastern
44 Europe to wider Green family as well as incentivize them to get closely engaged
45 in politics and at least attempt to influence policies in their respective
46 countries through the leverage of international networks.

47 With this resolution, we call for action in FYEG to:

48 1. Show political will to build genuine solidarity among its EU and non-EU
49 membership;

50 2. Invest FYEG's capacity (in terms of political will and human resources) in
51 connecting its Member Organisations coming from Eastern Europe with the relevant
52 wider Green structures, such as relevant Green MEPs in the European Parliament
53 (those who are in the Foreign Affairs Committee and are following the
54 developments and policies in EU accession countries, potential candidate
55 countries, Eastern Partnership, Russia working groups) and Green European Party;

56 3. Build engagement strategy with non-EU countries and its non-EU MOs that
57 entails FYEG following EU accession talks as well as the EU's Eastern
58 Partnership (EaP) agenda negotiations, and before voting and discussions in the
59 European Parliament regarding non-EU countries, consult with its MOs coming from
60 respective countries;

61 4. FYEG's EC responsible for Member Organisations coming from Eastern Europe to
62 have a special role aiming at liaising between non-EU MOs and wider Green
63 family, especially Greens in the European Parliament and European Green Party in
64 order to facilitate young Greens advocacy efforts as well as support their
65 political maturity process through exchange of views, opinions and voicing young
66 Eastern Europeans;

67 5. FYEG's EC responsible for Member Organisations coming from Eastern Europe to
68 serve as a focal point between Green MEPs focused on the countries concerned and
69 connect them with young Greens during relevant country missions so that, young
70 Greens also have their concerns voiced and position themselves when it comes to
71 understanding their realities and views;

72 6. FYEG's EC responsible for Member Organisations coming from Eastern Europe to
73 cooperate closely with FYEG's sister organisation - Cooperation and Development
74 Network for Eastern Europe (CDN) in order to bring FYEG's umbrella topics and
75 campaigns closer and adjusted to the context of Eastern Europe and reinforce
76 existing ties between these organisations;

77 With this little adjustments in the FYEG, we intend to bring Eastern European
78 MOs strategically closer to wider Green family and incentivize them to
79 meaningfully engage with the international networks as well as use all the
80 opportunities available before them in order to bring the change we have been
81 striving for and will still go on.

82 We believe that Greens and especially young Greens have always been at the
83 forefront of cultivating and reinforcing solidarity within and between
84 societies. This resolution is only a small step to further our solidarity
85 efforts and direct it into more strategic and best possible manner, and we are
86 hopeful, with us fighting for our present and future, we will see better days,
87 only through and with solidarity and mutual actions.