

D1 FYEG Political Platform

Proposer: FYEG
Resolution date: 05/10/2018
Agenda item: 3 Political Platform

Text

1 **Content**

2

- **Introduction**

3

- **Democracy**

4 Direct Democracy and Participation

5 Information and Openness

6 European Union Institutions Regionalism

7 Civil Society and Justice

8

- **Economy**

9 Capitalist Economic Model

10 Green Economy

11 Labour and Use of Time Fiscal and Monetary Policy Financial Markets

12 Energy

13

- **Social Europe**

14 Welfare State

15 Employment and Labour Unions

16 Pensions Education Health Housing Transport Public Space

17 Access to Culture

18

- **Global Justice, Peace and Human Rights**

19 Neoliberal Globalization

20 Another Globalisation is Possible

21 The United Nations Human Rights Peace

22 Migration and borders

23

- **Identity, Equality and Inclusion**

24 Identity

25 Equality and Non-Discrimination

26 Social Classes Gender Feminism

27 Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Intersexual, Transgender and Queer

28 Disability

29 Age

30 Intercultural Society

31 Religion

32 Anti-Fascism

33

- **Ecology**

34 Value of Nature Climate Change Biodiversity

35 Agriculture, Food and Rural Life

36 Bioethics

37 Ecology as the Fundament of Our Society

38

- **Conclusion**

39

- **Glossary**

40

- **Introduction**

41 We, the Federation of Young European Greens (FYEG), are the Green youth voice on
42 the European level. As part of a wider movement, and composed of diverse member
43 organisations uniting their collective voices and aspirations, we agree: our way
44 of living needs to change.

45 Our individual and organisational backgrounds lie in social and environmental
46 justice movements, Green party organisations, various single-issue campaigns, as
47 well as gathering previously non- politicised youth. Our similarities are much
48 stronger than our differences of opinion, and our diversity is a strength, it
49 makes us explore and discover the concrete things and changes we fight for,
50 together.

51 Through our shared struggles and aspirations we come to understand that no
52 single one of our topics is a lone priority but that the connections between us
53 are connections between issues. We refuse to choose between either the survival
54 and well-being of our shared planet, our personal liberties and freedoms, or
55 social welfare. To us, a Green perspective encompasses all of these demands, as
56 described in this document.

57 To bring about the survival of the planet, amelioration of personal liberties
58 and sustainable development, as well as global social justice, we must find the
59 channels, political arenas and tools to succeed. The institutions of formal
60 politics are spaces where many decisions that affect our lives and our politics
61 are made. We must work to be present and heard at all these stages and make
62 clear the urgency of green politics in order to establish support for our
63 political positions.

64 But we know that politics does not begin nor end at the doorsteps of these
65 institutions. We have learned from history about the brutality and harshness of
66 the struggles for rights we take for granted today.

67 The challenges lie not only in victories within institutional politics, but also
68 in the changing of the playing field of politics. We have seen how the
69 environment, animal rights, the rights of minorities and other neglected causes
70 have been brought into the centre of the institutions through the dreams and
71 actions of, sometimes, a small number of committed individuals and movements.
72 This, to us, is part of what it means to be committed to the ideal of social and
73 environmental justice, democracy in general and Green politics in particular.

74
75
76
77
78

79

- **Democracy**

80 Our Green ideals can only be reached through participatory democracy, an ongoing
81 process that we should never stop developing. It is not just about voting, but
82 about fundamental rights and participation in every area of life.

83 **Direct Democracy and Participation**

84 Democracy must be more than simply a periodical procedural issue. Citizens must
85 be able and encouraged to engage and participate actively as much as possible in
86 the political decision-making process in order for society to be genuinely
87 democratic.

88 FYEG stands for the right and responsibility of every citizen to be informed and
89 involved in all political, economic and social processes that are directly or
90 indirectly concerning their environment. We therefore call for direct democracy
91 at all levels of society to enable people to directly influence all the
92 political decisions which affects their society's development and enable them to
93 hold governments to account.

94 Democracy needs a strong protection of the rights of minorities, individual
95 liberties and human rights. No majority decision may be possible to reduce these
96 rights and liberties.

97 We support the implementation of grassroots methods such as participatory
98 budgets, local decision-making and regional parliaments as well as limiting
99 mandates by number and time in order to prevent the accumulation of power.

100 We call for democracy in all institutions which affect human life. Thus, pupils,
101 students and teachers should take decisions in schools and universities and
102 workers should decide about the future.

103 Citizenship must be available to all, regardless of origin or nationality. A
104 residency citizenship is a fundamental condition for democracy, so that everyone
105 has an equal opportunity to engage in the society which affects them.

106 The right to vote and stand for election at all levels must be guaranteed on the
107 basis of residence.

108 We do not support monarchy or any other non-elected system of governance. These
109 models are directly opposing and undermining values and practices of direct
110 democracy and must be abolished.

111 On the local level, we promote and support community activism and volunteering
112 as a form of human solidarity and a way to engage in participatory rights and
113 responsibilities. This mustn't be an opportunity for authorities or individuals
114 to exploit free labour but a way of building strong, resilient local
115 communities. The experience and contributions of activists and volunteers to the
116 labour market must also be recognized and valued.

117 As an organisation of young people, we support youth participation in
118 institutional politics as well as activism. We encourage others to join us in
119 demanding better education and opportunities for young people to participate in
120 all political activities.

121 We consider every single citizen as an essential part of our integer society and
122 therefore we demand the ban of a fixed voting age. We think that broader
123 participation could introduce a lot of new energy. Furthermore, political
124 stakeholders would focus not only on one specific group of people but rather all
125 society.

126 We believe e-democracy and e-participation can improve access and participation
127 in political processes, strengthening grass-root democracy.

128 **Information and Openness**

129 FYEG considers both transparency and accountability as vital for the functioning
130 of democracy. Without these governments tend towards corruption and nepotism and
131 citizens lose sufficient means of control of their governments.

132 We see communication as a fundamental social process and a pillar of democracy.
133 Everyone must have equal access to the media and the tools for its exchange.

134 Information within public bodies must be open and accessible. Public and private
135 information of public interest must be easily available to everyone with simple,
136 short and transparent procedures of procurement. Specifically, the data of
137 governments and related institutions must be accessible to civil society, with
138 the exception of personal data.

139 Freedom of thought, expression and speech must be respected. However, rhetoric
140 calling for violence and discrimination in public speech, marketing or
141 information needs to be recognized as hate speech and banned.

142 We emphasize the social value of Internet use in particular and demand free
143 access for all. Free software and Open source and related technologies, which
144 boost the exchange of information and also counter existing monopolies of
145 information, should be the standard. Public funding and subsidies should be
146 targeted at open source technologies to offer viable alternatives where they do
147 not exist yet.

148 The Internet is a public space that should not be dominated by certain groups,
149 companies or governments, and the same rights and liberties that are expected
150 offline must be guaranteed online. Therefore, we believe that net neutrality is
151 crucial for a democratic society.

152 In a society where more and more of our lives take place online, it's crucial
153 that personal privacy is protected. Legal authorities must only be able to
154 access citizens personal data if there is a court injunction. Nevertheless there
155 must be strict and transparent regulation procedures to void fraud.

156 We believe in the public domain and strongly support limitations of intellectual
157 property rights and patents. Thoughts and ideas evolve more creatively and serve
158 humanity better when they're shared.

159 **European Union Institutions**

160 FYEG believes there is a significant democratic deficit within EU institutions.
161 In order to remedy this we must transfer power from the Commission and Council
162 to the European Parliament. Furthermore, European Commission need to be directly
163 elected by EU citizens in order to close the gap between citizens and the EU
164 institutions. Transnational lists for the EP are needed in order to develop the
165 concept of pan-European citizenship.

166 To prevent member states using their veto to defend their own narrow interests,

167 we demand a European Council based on majority rule as opposed to consensus. The
168 voice of the Union must not be monopolised by any single member state.

169 The process of integration and harmonisation must not lead to a race to the
170 bottom between member states. On the contrary, there must be a guaranteed high
171 standard of public services and environmental protection and member states must
172 not be economically disadvantaged for unilaterally increasing these standards.

173 We strive to improve EU citizenship as a step towards a Social Europe. Free
174 movement of people and the respect of human rights must be guaranteed and
175 integral to the concept of EU citizenship.

176 **Regionalism**

177 FYEG believes borders, such as national boundaries, are artificial social
178 constructs imposed on inhabitants. States must recognise the dynamic interaction
179 of people, cultures and identities, thus the life and development of regions has
180 to overcome national borders.

181 We support the organising principle of subsidiarity whereby matters are
182 deliberated upon by the most competent authority, starting from the lowest or
183 least centralised level. We see regionalism as a way to bring about more direct
184 democracy in the spirit of subsidiarity, to strengthen local communities as well
185 as their economy through devolution and to embrace cultural diversity.

186 Regionalism, however, must never become a vehicle for nationalistic or ethnic
187 segregation but rather help to better enable communities and their cultural
188 self-determination. Though this can not undermine interregional solidarity.

189 **Civil Society and Justice**

190 FYEG believes that no democracy can function without a critically involved and
191 active civil society. Unions and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) are vital
192 in holding governments to account. We deplore the attempts of business interests
193 to disguise lobby groups as grassroots initiatives. Lobbying must be transparent
194 and strictly regulated, free of disproportionate influence of profit oriented
195 organizations.

196 For all holders of political office, there needs to be a waiting period before
197 they can accept a new job from the business sector. Lobbying for commercial
198 interests while in office has to be ended.

199 No democracy can be conceived without an independent judicial system, which
200 operates free from political pressures and interference. FYEG strongly believes
201 that in a conflict with economic or political interests, strong and independent
202 courts must effectively protect civil liberties and human rights.
203

204

- **Economy**

205 FYEG identifies the root causes of social and environmental crises in the
206 current economic model. In order to bring an end to environmental destruction
207 and human deprivation, a system change is urgently needed. We believe a Green
208 Economy can achieve the necessary radical change through democratisation of the
209 economy, redistribution of wealth and social and environmental justice.

210 **Capitalist Economic Model**

211 The current economic system, with its social division based on who owns the
212 means of production and its prioritisation of wealth accumulation at the expense
213 of people and environment, causes and aggravates many of the social and
214 environmental problems we see today.

215 This social division has become a coercive hierarchy, the root cause of social
216 domination through inequalities of wealth and power and involuntary wage
217 labour relations. In theory, a capitalist economy and politics are separate
218 spheres, but in reality wealth, corporate or individual, has a huge influence on
219 governments, policies and politics.

220 The influence of wealth on politics grossly distorts democracy, decreasing the
221 influence of and excluding most citizens. This is directly opposed to our belief
222 in direct democracy - the empowerment and engagement of all citizens.

223 Individual and national wealth increasingly determines access to education,
224 healthcare, housing and other vital services and assets. Inequality of wealth
225 therefore leads to an inequality of access, which in turn leads to social
226 deprivation (also see 'Social Classes').

227 Economic growth based on material consumption is neither possible nor desirable
228 as it is both socially and environmentally unsustainable. If the link between
229 economic growth and environmental destruction cannot be broken, a controlled
230 recession is a better alternative.

231 Therefore, FYEG is opposed to capitalism on the grounds that it intrinsically
232 entails social domination and long-term growth based on material consumption,
233 which inevitably leads to the exploitation of people and the environment.

234 We also oppose the exponential expression of capitalism - the global
235 neoliberal system - where corporations and the market prevail over human needs.

236 **Green Economy**

237 FYEG thinks beyond materialism and consumerism. We strive for a system change,
238 for a new socio-economic system to guarantee social and environmental justice
239 and the utilization of natural resources under public stewardship and the
240 precautionary principle of long term sustainability.

241 We strive for a system which values equality and cooperation instead of material
242 and monetary profit maximisation as the driver for economic activity. We strive
243 for a system which places people and the environment before profit. Such a
244 system also understands human activity as part of a rich yet finite,
245 interdependent and fragile ecosystem. For this, we need a Green Economy and to
246 understand the economy as a tool and not as an objective in itself.

247 We therefore conceive Green Economics under this new paradigm of analysis: the
248 elimination of the unlimited growth goal, the end of excessive capital
249 accumulation and a redistribution of wealth and production factors.

250 Through the green economy we strive for gender equality and the destruction of
251 the gender work division. Intergenerational and intragenerational equity are also
252 fundamental social values for a Green Economy.

253 We must redirect and reduce production, promoting new forms of social
254 relationships and trade based on environmentally and socially sustainable
255 activity. As a society we must be less intensive and more efficient in our use
256 of natural resources.

257 We reject the commodification of the environment and the privatization of common
258 goods such as water resources, the climate system, earth's genetic heritage,
259 knowledge. We reject the systematic privatization of the commons. We call for
260 political and economic systems that emphasize an equitable and sustainable
261 access to material and immaterial common goods. A Green Economy is an economy
262 that encourages sustainable technological and social innovation.

263 In order for economics to be ecologically sustainable, all the factors damaging
264 the environment have to be included into the production costs. The gains must be
265 invested in appropriate funds and be used for positive action towards
266 environmental restoration.

267 To achieve these goals we must utilise new economic indicators to help us
268 understand our progress. We must go beyond GDP (Gross Domestic Product) and
269 incorporate invisible work forces - health and happiness and the real
270 environmental costs and benefits.

271 We strive for everyone's right and possibility to seek happiness. A good life
272 is far more important a goal than economic growth, full employment or
273 maintaining a welfare state - although all of these have their part in
274 reaching the goal of a happy society. It's not up to politicians to decide what
275 makes a person happy. Political decisions can however affect people's
276 possibility to seek happiness and prevent problems which lower happiness.
277 Politics should create possibilities for happiness to grow instead of worrying
278 about GDP.

279 To conclude, the green economy requires a revolution of our social and economic
280 system to reduce production and material consumption and increase human well-
281 being through the implementation of new values and priorities.

282 FYEG understands the concept of the Green New Deal as the first step towards a

283 Green Economy aiming to reduce the intrinsic crisis of capitalism. The GND
284 emphasises sustainable energy, Green jobs, moving towards a more service
285 focussed economy, the reduction of working time and the redistribution of wealth
286 while reducing our ecological footprint.

287 **Labour and Use of Time**

288 Disadvantaged groups are often forced to take up degrading jobs for low wages.
289 This inequality often persists for generations.

290 FYEG believes that work must be fulfilling mentally, physically and socially and
291 ensure fair wages. Working conditions must provide good health and safety, equal
292 treatment between genders, different sexual orientations, class, ages and
293 origins, career prospects and possibilities for further training. Thus, the
294 labour market must recognise workers as holistic human beings, taking into
295 consideration all their needs.

296 Everybody must have the right to organize their work in the most suitable manner
297 for themselves. We strive for a reduction of working hours. This way we can
298 create more jobs, reduce consumerism and recognize the time necessary for social
299 interaction and care work. However, the reduction in working time should not lead
300 to a disproportionate reduction in purchasing power.

301 We strive to change our understanding of work; from working for wages in order
302 to fulfil short term consumerist desires to a balanced life of work and free
303 time which enables us to live fuller, more sociable and enjoyable lives. The
304 role of work must also be seen as a way of meaningful participation in society,
305 and every person must have the right to participate and find suitable work.

306 The cooperative business model can be the first step towards the systemic
307 reorganization of the labour market and production factors. Cooperatives are
308 also integral to democratising our economy, vital if we are to transform our
309 society towards a fair and sustainable world.

310 **Fiscal and Monetary Policy**

311 We want a fair fiscal system with three main goals: to support a strong welfare
312 state, reduce social inequalities and incentives for green and sustainable
313 investments. We stand by the principle of progressive taxation on wealth, which
314 also needs to internalize environmental costs to make polluters pay.

315 Fiscal and monetary policies are basic economic instruments. Debt, deficits and
316 surpluses are important tools for equalizing macroeconomic trends, through a
317 systematic increase in structural debt undermines intergenerational solidarity.
318 Especially during a recession, fiscal and monetary policies should be used to
319 reactivate the economy, invest in meaningful assets and hence create jobs.

320 FYEG opposes budget cuts without a socially inclusive debate. Knowing the danger
321 of high inflation for the whole economy, measures must be responsible and
322 carefully considered. Nevertheless, interest rates must not be managed simply in

323 terms of limiting inflation without consideration for jobs and the impact on
324 income distribution.

325 At the European level, we believe tax harmonisation is necessary to avoid a race
326 to the bottom regarding the lowering of corporate and income taxation.
327 Additionally, fiscal systems must work together to eliminate fiscal fraud, tax
328 evasion and tax loopholes. We demand a new structure to regulate financial
329 markets and to implement a financial transaction tax to reduce speculation and
330 produce positive incentives for investment in the real economy.

331 Regarding the Euro-zone, we cannot expect it to work efficiently or at all
332 without a political union, which involves common social and economic policies.
333 Therefore, we need a real fiscal union, with a Eurozone Treasury and a suitably
334 substantial budget in order to apply effective fiscal policies.

335

336

337 **Financial Markets**

338 FYEG opposes the development of an unrestrained financial sector in recent
339 decades. This sector has hijacked the process of accumulation, creating new
340 financial instruments and innovations which undermine the value generated in the
341 real economy. The deregulated financial sector also continues to have a very
342 disproportionate and tyrannical influence on our democracies.

343 The financial market, the banking system and the qualification agencies must
344 therefore be strictly regulated and preferably democratically owned through
345 cooperatives to put finance at the service of the economy and the people, not
346 the other way around.

347 We believe the financial system must recover the coherence between production
348 and consumption. We need a new global financial architecture to break down the
349 logic of growth based on the growing debt of central countries accompanied by
350 the creation of a semi-periphery which produces manufactured goods and a
351 periphery relegated to provide raw materials. We must break with the logic of
352 unequal development and with the neo-colonial exploitation and conditions it
353 imposes.

354 **Energy**

355 The insatiable extraction and consumption of fossil fuels for energy has
356 underpinned the evolution of our capitalist economic system since the industrial
357 revolution. However, our continued dependence on fossil fuels now threatens
358 society itself. Burning these fuels releases greenhouse gas emissions, the
359 principle cause of anthropogenic climate change which now threatens the stability
360 of global society putting hundreds of millions of people at risk.

361 Furthermore, we are simply running out of conventional oil. Resource scarcity
362 will result in rapidly increasing prices and economic shocks disproportionately
363 affecting vulnerable groups and the Global South. The economic, political and
364 hegemonic structure of our energy system promotes increasingly extreme

365 extraction methods, such as mountain-top removal, fracking and coal-to-gas, in
366 order to utilise dwindling fossil fuel resources. These methods and products
367 should be banned entirely.

368 Therefore, we urgently need to revolutionise our energy system over the next
369 decade, transforming fossil fuel infrastructure into a green, socially equitable
370 renewable energy system.

371 In doing so, we must be aware of false solutions, both technologically and
372 systemically. Nuclear power, with its risk of considerable harm and pollution,
373 must be decommissioned, as it has no part to play in our energy future.

374 Carbon capture and storage, geo-engineering and other technological 'solutions'
375 which perpetuate the burning of fossil fuels, conveniently without challenging
376 the status quo and with considerable risk to society, are no solution and hence
377 must not be prioritised and considered with caution. Measures must be taken to
378 fight the causes of the problems like too high emissions, unsustainable
379 consumption of natural resources and not simply the consequences.

380 FYEG proposes not just technological solutions but a transformation of our
381 energy system as a whole, re-conceptualising how we produce, consume and own one
382 of the most fundamental resources of society. Renewable energy technologies such
383 as wind turbines and solar photovoltaics enable the decentralisation of our
384 energy supply.

385 But decentralisation must also be a social priority; enabling communities to
386 better understand and decide how their energy is produced and profiting from
387 energy production. This can help strengthen the role of communities in society
388 and help to progressively challenge the centralised corporate dominance of our
389 energy system, which continues to create significant obstacles to transforming
390 our energy supply.

391 A European institution must coordinate our efforts to reduce greenhouse gas
392 emissions, ensuring increases in efficiency, the most effective immediate step,
393 are not simply matched with an increase in consumption resulting in ongoing
394 unsustainable levels of greenhouse gas emissions.

395 We must also hold Europe fully accountable for the products we consume and the
396 impact these have on people and the environment globally. Moving polluting
397 industries to other countries with less strict regulations enabling continued
398 pollution must be fully accounted for and Europe must take full responsibility
399 for these emissions. The EU must also become a leader in renewable energy
400 research, development and installation and must also lead politically at
401 international climate negotiations. The EU must provide access to its gained
402 knowledge and developed technologies and offer support in international climate
403 negotiations to bring forward the energy revolution globally.

404 We have a diminishing window of opportunity to address climate change. We must
405 act immediately to address not only the technological but importantly also the
406 socio-economic causes of and solutions to climate change. This means
407 transforming our energy system through decentralisation of supply coordinated at

408 a European level but benefiting the communities who produce the energy and
409 challenging the current outdated centralised system of supply.

410

- **Social Europe**

411 FYEG wants an inclusive Social Europe in which social justice prevails. Thus, we
412 demand social policies to guarantee citizen's emancipation. Basic Income,
413 progressive taxation, public pensions, free education, public health care and
414 guaranteed access to housing are the main elements to achieve a redistribution
415 of wealth and a more equal society. The implementation of a basic income system
416 must not result in an abolition of existing social rights and benefits. We see
417 basic income as a crucial and important complementation of existing social
418 benefits.

419 **Welfare State**

420 FYEG opposes the model of global neoliberalism which destroys the presence of the
421 state in the economy and does not recognize socio-economic rights. We recognize
422 socio-economic rights as the basis for the existence of social policies. All
423 members of society should have equal rights. Thus, we believe in the concept of
424 a social citizenship. Every individual has the right to live a life independent
425 from family and the market.

426 The welfare state must guarantee citizens emancipation and must be based on the
427 principles of universalism. Rights must be de-commodified and must be of a high
428 social standard. De-commodification of the status of individuals vis-à-vis the
429 market means to ensure emancipation of individuals from the market and entails
430 citizens to opt out of work with the life-long approach, without losing their
431 job, income or general welfare.

432 We believe that the first step is the implementation of a basic income scheme,
433 which recognises the fundamental value of every person in society and also the
434 value of unpaid work. It allows people to make decisions independent of economic
435 factors and to engage in socially useful activity outside of the monetised
436 economy such as caring and volunteering. Moreover, it gives workers more
437 bargaining power within the labour market.

438 The welfare state must also cater towards the needs of certain groups in order
439 to avoid social exclusion and poverty. Poverty is more than the lack of
440 financial resources and income; it encompasses vulnerability, precariousness,
441 the lack of opportunities and the denial of rights. It can be described as a
442 state of limited social, cultural and political participation. The rules of
443 competition and the free market must not be applied where they collide with
444 socio-economic rights.

445
446 State ownership of social services means these services are democratically
447 accountable. Therefore the privatization and outsourcing of social services is
448 unacceptable. We also believe that a functioning welfare state generates more

449 good than a narrow budgetary view can indicate, a financial deficit being more
450 bearable than unanswered social needs.

451 **Employment and Labour Unions**

452 Employment policies setting out the parameters for working conditions and
453 relations must be deliberated over by all concerned stakeholders. We recognise
454 this dialogue as a crucial step to improving workers' rights and we recognise
455 the role and importance of strong labour unions and legislation in creating and
456 maintaining high labour standards.

457 FYEG strives for a European Welfare State which enables disadvantaged group's
458 emancipation and access to a labour market which guarantees decent work.

459 We see Green jobs not only as those created in renewable energy and recycling
460 sectors, important though they are. Our concept of Green jobs also includes
461 those jobs which fulfil our concept of a Green economy as previously described.
462 Green jobs therefore must increase equality between classes and close the gender
463 pay gap. They must also eliminate precarious contracts and involuntary part-time
464 employment.

465 We denounce the weak position of youth in the European labour market and the
466 disproportional effects of economic crises on young people. Despite being the
467 most educated generation ever, we find it increasingly difficult to get a decent
468 and stable job. Young people need a stronger lobby in Europe. FYEG advocates
469 youth rights especially when it comes to labour policy.

470 A strong legal framework guaranteeing the formation and action of labour unions
471 is needed in Europe and at the EU level. We call for the ratification and
472 implementation of all provisions of the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

473 Finally, the creation of Green jobs and reduction of unemployment and
474 discrimination in the labour market must be overcome by an alliance of labour
475 unions, worker cooperatives and social and political movements. We strive to
476 build strong relationships with the aforementioned organisations and movements
477 as part of our role in creating a fair, sustainable society.

478 **Pensions**

479 FYEG believes access to a pension must be a social right. Pensions must enable
480 the elderly and certain dependants to have a decent standard of living. States
481 must provide a decent, public and universal pension scheme for all citizens,
482 based on progressive income taxation which also guarantees future generations
483 access to decent pensions.

484 Pension funds must be publicly owned reducing risk and enabling the state to
485 make socially useful investments. Over and above compulsory pension commitments,
486 further and unlimited voluntary investments in public pension schemes must be
487 allowed. The financial benefits of a public pension fund must not be applied to
488 the private sector.

489 EU pension schemes must be harmonised to enable the free movement of workers.
490 Any pension negotiations must be undertaken with suitable dialogue and
491 conditions for workers.

492 **Education**

493 The universality of public education is at risk and is increasingly becoming
494 marketized. Formal education is becoming a process simply to prepare people for
495 the labour market. We believe education and self-cultivation have an intrinsic
496 value and are always to the benefit of society and therefore must not be viewed
497 or practised in these narrow terms.

498 FYEG believes education must be a basic social right, free, plural, equally
499 accessible to all, gender-sensitive, of high quality, and meet the individual
500 developmental needs of each person. Education should be holistic and inspire a
501 hunger for academic and non-academic learning. Formal, non-formal and informal
502 education is the preparation for a complex world and must provide knowledge and
503 skills needed to fully participate in society.

504 We believe the current education model should be radically democratized,
505 creating collegial instead of authoritative relations. This is important not
506 only for knowledge and creativity, but even more for understanding non-
507 hierarchical and democratic values at early ages.

508 Schools, universities and non-formal education centres must be intercultural and
509 non-discriminatory; they must not be divided by age, sex, religion, ethnicity,
510 origin, disabilities or legal status.

511 We seek real alternatives to higher education. There must be greater support for
512 apprenticeships and employment oriented training for young people, especially
513 women, including lifelong training and learning programmes.

514 We value the advantages of non-formal education. We are against the
515 categorization of people based on formal qualifications. Non-formal education
516 has to be supported by the state by providing resources and time and by labour
517 markets by recognizing its value as one form of education.

518 **Health**

519 FYEG believes that access to healthcare is a human right and must be free.

520 Health begins with a healthy lifestyle. Prevention and education on healthy
521 lifestyles must be the cornerstone of all healthcare policies.

522 Healthcare systems must be based on prevention, be accessible, non-
523 discriminatory and adjusted to every individual's needs. Healthcare must also
524 consist of psychological and social care. Treatment must be free of religious,
525 cultural or traditional limitations.

526 Pharmaceutical corporations are not transparent and often profit at the expense
527 of public health, especially in the Global South. Therefore, we demand a fair,
528 publicly owned pharmaceutical sector to compliment the private sector.

529 We strongly support the donation of organs and urge for an international
530 transplant system.

531 Sex education, including education on contraception and reproductive health care
532 must be introduced from an early age in formal education and respect different
533 genders and sexual orientations. We oppose prejudices and discrimination, such
534 as zerophobia, towards people living with sexually transmitted diseases.

535 We support the demystification of drug issues as it leads to a more open and
536 realistic debate on drug policies. By legalising drugs, health risks will
537 decrease and drug-related crimes will be reduced. Drug policies should be based
538 on the principle of damage minimisation and rehabilitation must be provided
539 within the public healthcare system. Rehabilitation methods need to be developed
540 to become more effective, and must not include practices which endanger human
541 freedoms.

542 All human beings have the right to make decisions about their own bodies and
543 life. Women must have the right to decide about their own bodies without
544 economic restriction. Thus, abortion needs to be legally defined and freely
545 provided. Assisted suicide should be accessible to everyone suffering from
546 unbearable physical or mental suffering.

547
548

549 **Housing**

550 FYEG believes housing is a basic human right and that housing should not be
551 treated simply as a commodity. The housing market must fulfil people's needs and
552 not be reduced to profit maximization. We deplore financial speculation on
553 people's homes and believe that people must not be left without decent
554 accommodation under any circumstances.

555 As a consequence of the unregulated private market, many people have been made
556 homeless or are often subjected to low quality, temporary, overcrowded housing
557 which has adverse psychological and physical effects. We are committed to
558 fighting homelessness, which represents one of the most brutal and blatant forms
559 of poverty and exclusion in European societies.

560 Social housing must be made available, offering a long-term quality solution. We
561 oppose processes of gentrification, which increases house prices and produces
562 socially homogeneous neighbourhoods, forcing people to relocate often against
563 their will.

564 Homes must be affordable to those who most need them, ecologically sustainable

565 and provide quality amenities to foster community cohesion. We also believe
566 housing cooperatives must be strongly encouraged and have access to adequate
567 financial resources.

568 Urban planning must be utilized to suitably increase urban density, and reduce
569 urban sprawl. This is both ecologically and socially beneficial.

570 **Transport**

571 People have a right to mobility and the use of transport. It is necessary to
572 invest in, expand and promote public transport and to guarantee free access for
573 everyone. There is a need for improved infrastructure and a shift to sustainable
574 and eco-friendly forms of mobility and to think of mobility as a complex
575 concept, involving different vehicles and ways of travelling.

576 All the external costs of private transportation have to be included to show
577 that it is extremely expensive and occupies a lot of our space. Schemes for
578 sustainable transport should be supported by economic incentives like eco-taxes
579 on fossil fuel.

580 Local and regional consumption of goods should be encouraged. Transport of
581 living animals, waste and dangerous products must be kept as short as possible
582 and eventually discontinued. In industrialised countries road traffic, harbours
583 and airports must not be extended.

584 We believe in a democratic and open planning system which we believe would
585 reduce the need for transportation.

586 Cities are expanding and the principle of urban mobility must be respected. Car
587 free cities open possibilities for urban mobility around pedestrians, cyclists
588 and public transport and the reoccupation of public space by people. In this
589 way, cities play their role in genuine ecological and democratic change.

590 **Public Space**

591 FYEG conceives of public space as a place of meeting for reflection and casual
592 and formal socialising. Public space provides places for public audiences, for
593 street art and expressions of protest all of which are fundamental to democracy
594 and community well-being.

595 Unfortunately public spaces are being sold off to create high street shopping
596 centres or are having measures put in place limiting people's right to meet and
597 gather. We must immediately stop this destruction of public spaces, our squares,
598 streets, gardens and town centres.

599 Therefore we demand an immediate stop to the transformation of public space into
600 private spaces.

601 All arbitrary restrictions of civil liberties in public space are unacceptable

602 and such legislation must be repealed. Further, we deplore and seek to limit the
603 visual pollution of public space by excessive presence of ad-campaigns.

604 **Access to Culture**

605 FYEG believes that free access to culture is a basic right of the people. The
606 abusive economic exploitation of culture through restrictive systems such as
607 marketisation and copyright, are an impediment to free access. As a solution, we
608 propose new models based on free sharing.

609 States must also provide free access to all cultural content in their
610 possession. Social centres must be freely available and under the democratic
611 control of local communities.

612

- **Global Justice, Peace and Human Rights**

613 The current neoliberal institutions protect large corporate interests but not
614 people or the environment. We believe that another world is not only possible
615 but also urgently needed. We demand Global justice!

616 **Neoliberal Globalization**

617 FYEG stands for global justice and equality between countries. We oppose the
618 current neoliberal globalisation promoted by the World Trade Organisation (WTO),
619 World Bank (WB) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), whose model continues
620 to enrich major multinational corporations and financial institutions at the
621 expense of the Global South, certain social classes and the environment.

622 Neoliberalism supports the privatization of national industries, deregulation
623 and enhancing the role of the private sector while restricting or eliminating
624 the role of the state. It undermines local decision-making and exploits local
625 populations. Under neoliberalism restrictions on corporations and capital are
626 removed, while boundaries are maintained for local and other communities.

627 Neoliberalism leads to high levels of social exclusion, destruction of labour
628 unions, large disparities in income, increased poverty, poor and unequal
629 education, poor healthcare and high rates of crime and incarceration. It
630 reinforces the North-South divide and maintains neocolonialism.

631 This stems from a long history of exploitation especially by European powers.
632 The industrialisation of Europe was based on the slave trade and mass atrocities
633 by the colonial powers who extorted raw materials through force. Most of the raw
634 materials necessary for the continued material growth of our economies still
635 comes from the Global South, but the companies extracting them are based in the
636 Global North.

637 Following the end of colonialism, neocolonialism now prevails. Global
638 institutions like the United Nations Security Council, WTO, WB and IMF do not
639 represent the population of the world.

640 **Another Globalisation is Possible**

641 FYEG fights for global justice. We believe that an alternative form of
642 globalisation based on global justice, cooperation, democracy, engagement and
643 the free flow of information is possible. We are in solidarity with the global
644 marginalised majority and press for fairer global structures and institutions,
645 which need to be reflected in the economic system.

646 There needs to be democratic ownership of natural resources by the people.

647 We support grass-roots organisations, indigenous people's movements and
648 democratic leaders in their efforts to push for global justice. We thus support
649 institutions such as the World Social Forum (WSF) and the United Nations
650 Economic and Social Council (UNESCO). The WSF seeks to develop an alternative
651 future through the global engagement of civil society, social movements and
652 NGOs. We are part of a decentralised debate, exchange of experience and
653 knowledge and coordinated action working towards a fairer and sustainable world
654 as a legitimate and democratic alternative.

655 **The United Nations**

656 The United Nations was born out of the terrible experiences of the world wars.
657 However the nations governing the UN did not succeed in creating a safe, secure
658 and fair world. With its organisations and its Human Rights Conventions it aims
659 at ensuring freedom and well-being for all. The UN aim of development must not
660 be reduced to abstract millennium goals, a policy of global justice can only be
661 achieved with a fair distribution of wealth and power.

662 In order to be strengthened, the UN needs to be democratised. We demand the
663 dissolution of the UN Security Council. We call for a democratically elected UN
664 Parliamentary Assembly, which should elect an executive committee giving fair
665 representation to different global regions and legitimacy to the decision-making
666 bodies of the UN.

667 The UN General Assembly must implement economic and social policies so as to
668 achieve global justice, opposing the hegemonic policies of the WTO, WB and IMF.

669 **Human Rights**

670 FYEG demands human rights to be universally recognized and respected. To achieve
671 this goal we need a strong global network of civil society, supported by
672 education and training instruments. International conventions are an important
673 tool, as are the internal workings of the United Nations to enforce them, by
674 naming and shaming, international pressure, and sanctions. However, human rights
675 go beyond international agreements; they begin from the needs of each person,
676 within each society.

677 We condemn the practice of abusing human rights in international politics as an
678 argument to pursue own national interests. Human Rights, which essentially
679 evolve and develop, need to be transversally included on all institutional
680 levels, along with corresponding monitoring mechanisms.

681 We acknowledge that the basic rights, dealing with civil liberties and
682 participation in political life, are still causes that need to be fought for, in
683 Europe as elsewhere. This however should not hold us back from participating in
684 the struggle for new human rights.

685 We are in favour of a stronger international human rights regime working in
686 cooperation with regional human rights courts. We support the establishment of
687 effective possibilities to judicially prosecute breaches of human rights on the
688 global level, since there is currently a wide gap in internationally concerning
689 the real implementation of human rights. We strive for an impartial institution
690 to bring perpetrators of the Global South and the Global North to justice, if
691 justice cannot be implemented regionally.

692 **Peace**

693 FYEG is committed to the vision of a world without weapons, armed conflict and
694 war. We understand peace to be more than the absence of war and pacifism as a
695 necessarily transversal concept, which affects different areas of policy. Peace
696 has to be built every day by reducing sources of conflicts such as poverty,
697 injustice and discrimination. To achieve this, all actors must take
698 responsibility and promote human rights.

699 Everybody has the responsibility to prevent the outbreak of violence using all
700 legitimate means available. Therefore we support the responsibility to prevent
701 and demand its institutionalisation on the UN level. The use of violence can
702 only be the very last resort of political action. Decisions that lead to the use
703 of military force must be transparent, fully accountable, democratically
704 legitimized and reasonably justified.

705 We maintain a high degree of suspicion with regards to the "Responsibility to
706 protect", due to the potential for abuse. It has too often been used to
707 legitimize actions beyond protection of civilians. However, we are not
708 inherently opposed to "Responsibility to protect", as it may provide a means of
709 last resort for the international community to protect civilians against abuses
710 on a mass scale.

711 Military intervention must require a UN mandate. Intervention should only be
712 mandated to stop mass atrocity crimes and must be strictly limited in mandate
713 and action.

714 We oppose the maintaining of large military forces which we see as a waste of
715 resources that should go to other priorities and aggressively provocative
716 towards other groups and nations. Therefore we support the continued reduction
717 of arsenals by destruction of obsolete material and material swapping between
718 nations. Furthermore, we demand the end of all weapon production under profit
719 logic, retaining only that necessary to comply with the international

720 community's responsibility to protect. All subsidies to the armaments industry
721 must be ended.

722 In this context nuclear weapons must be highlighted. Development and testing of
723 nuclear weapons must be banned globally and the process towards total nuclear
724 disarmament must continue with increased urgency.

725 We believe that structures such as NATO go against the fundamental aim of
726 European construction that is to spread peace. By its historical purpose, narrow
727 militaristic outlook and fundamentally undemocratic structures, it should not be
728 a model for the future. We therefore think that NATO must be dismantled.

729 For the EU to truly represent its ideals and values in foreign politics, non-
730 violence and co-operation policies are powerful tools and must be utilised.
731 Therefore we demand the creation of a European Civil Peace Corps, as a non-
732 military structure, in charge of creating and preserving peace. Members of this
733 Corps should be trained in the skills of non-violent conflict resolution, and
734 should be employed as both a preventive and a curative measure.

735 We oppose the state's right to force participation in military training and
736 activities. Any forced service must be abolished.

737 **Migration and borders**

738 FYEG believes that freedom of movement is a human right, migration is not a
739 crime and no human is illegal. We demand legal protection and residency status
740 for migrants and respect for their human rights. We strive for the complete
741 abolition of borders and the unquestionable right for everyone to choose a place
742 of residence.

743 The current EU border policies institutionalize racism and social
744 stratification. Militarized agencies are not a viable way of meeting neither the
745 challenges of global migratory flows nor the needs of migrants and refugees.
746 Europe has become a fortress while migrants are exploited as a cheap labour
747 force on the basis of their vulnerable status. As such FYEG is convinced that
748 FRONTEX must be abolished.

749 We are against externalization of European borders. These policies are
750 interfering in migration patterns which are beyond EU borders and as such are
751 implemented outside of any legal and legitimate context, representing a direct
752 attack on human rights. European policies need to focus on mitigating the actual
753 reasons of forced migration and offer substantial help.

754 Though the European Union supports the free movement of goods, capital, services
755 and people, these freedoms end at its borders. We demand the immediate
756 implementation of a common European border policy respecting fundamental human
757 rights. The EU must harmonise asylum procedures reflecting the principle of
758 solidarity and inclusive Europe, while actively supporting the UNHCR resettlement
759 programme for refugees.

760 A fair and humanitarian asylum system must be based on understanding of and
761 respect for the needs of asylum seekers.

762

- **Identity, Equality and Inclusion**

763 Through identifying links between multiple levels of discrimination, we are able
764 to fight for an equal society. We must smash patriarchy, class division, racism,
765 fascism and every other system of oppression.

766 **Identity**

767 FYEG stands for an open, intercultural and fair society where individuals are
768 free to express themselves and pursue happiness. The division of people into
769 groups based on various personal attributes limits and is in opposition to the
770 concept of identity. The different norms that societies implicitly or explicitly
771 rely on are not only subject to change throughout history, but also often
772 constitute a form of violence against those who do not fit these norms.

773 Ideas and stereotypes that are labelled and justified as natural are usually
774 socially constructed norms. The concept of normal has been built on the social
775 values, rules and institutions dominated by rich senior white men. This
776 discourse has been imposed on all of society and needs to be deconstructed.

777 The practice and acceptance of this concept oppresses not only women but all
778 individuals with a different identity. Further, different forms of
779 oppression often interlink to form multiple oppression on certain groups and
780 individuals. These interrelated structures of oppression degrade society as a
781 whole.

782 We believe that humans should not be forced to choose between identities as if
783 they were mutually exclusive choices. We welcome movements that break up old
784 norms and stereotypes. Any discrimination based on gender, ethnicity, sexual
785 orientation, class, appearance, age, disability, religion, political ideas or
786 any other category is unacceptable. To us, society must be open and inclusive
787 and not demand mono-cultural adaptation.

788 **Equality and Non-Discrimination**

789 FYEG sees discrimination and repression as a form of violence. Too often,
790 injustice is taken as natural and constructed norms remain unquestioned.
791 Knowledge, experience and exchange with people who experience discrimination can
792 weaken existing stereotypes and open the path towards a better society for
793 everyone to enjoy.

794 Society must acknowledge discrimination. We advocate the creation of awareness-
795 raising and monitoring institutions on discrimination.

796 Information should be collected to expose existing injustices and must also have
797 influence on the policy-making process.

798 We demand all necessary instruments and policies to eradicate all kinds of
799 discrimination and move towards an equal society. To reach this, all policy
800 areas must integrate the idea of inclusion.

801 **Social Classes**

802 FYEG recognizes social class as the main obstacle to an equal and fair society.
803 Classes are the social stratification due to power relations in the labour
804 market and the economic system. People with the same social, economic and
805 educational status belong to the same social class.

806 Social class often determines the possibility of a person to participate in
807 society, particularly in decision making processes. Culture, education, economic
808 background and social contacts reinforce stratification and power structures.

809 FYEG strives towards the elimination of social classes creating a society of
810 genuine equal opportunities.

811 **Gender**

812 FYEG recognizes gender as a social construct and a product of patriarchy. We
813 believe that all roles and divisions based on gender hide a relation of power.
814 Therefore we oppose the binary gender system and demand neutralization of gender
815 based differences in society. This power relation and the norms it establishes
816 oppress both woman and men.

817 This powerful system affects human beings in the most intimate areas of life.
818 Patriarchy imposes a false dichotomy on societies: a masculine domain, which
819 centralizes political, social and economic power, and a female domain of the
820 private sphere. Activity in the female sphere, such as care-taking within
821 families, is not recognised as socially or economically valuable and thus
822 renders the contribution of women invisible.

823 Moreover, our economies take advantage of this model by externalizing care costs
824 to families and thereby effectively to women. All those who are capable should
825 equally share care work. We support measures that give people, regardless of
826 their gender, possibilities for care taking without being penalized in their
827 careers.

828 Language and symbolic expressions in society perpetuate and reinforce gender
829 discrimination in an almost invisible way. We ask for a gender sensitive
830 language, still bearing in mind that gender is not a binary concept.

831 We demand that sexual harassment and gender violence be considered violent,
832 criminal acts and that they are legally prosecuted. The victim should not be
833 blamed for having been assaulted. Instead, adequate resources for helping the
834 victims of sexual assault both in their legal fight and psychologically, must be

835 made available.

836 **Feminism**

837 FYEG declares itself a feminist organization. Feminism, to us, refers to both
838 the fight against patriarchy and the desire to go beyond binary gender
839 divisions. We see discrimination against women as a form of violence present in
840 politics, the labour market, our education and private life. We identify queer
841 theory as a promising intellectual framework to go beyond gender structure. In
842 order to reach a gender neutral society we support the use of quotas in favour
843 of women as a first step towards equality. We therefore advocate quotas as a
844 transitory measure to empower women.

845 We acknowledge gender-based discrimination of women in the labour market. Thus
846 we demand equal pay for equally valuable work and an end to discrimination based
847 on pregnancy and parenthood.

848 **Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Intersexual, Transgender and Queer**

849 FYEG opposes any discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. Everybody
850 should have the right to freely express their sexuality. We advocate the
851 recognition of sexual minorities, and their rights as lesbian, gay, bisexual,
852 intersexual, transgender and queer.

853 Sex and sexual orientation must not be registered. Legal recognition of gender
854 identity should not be a reason for a violation of physical integrity. Education
855 and information on sex, gender, sexual orientation and identity, especially on
856 intersexuality and transsexuality, needs to be introduced, supported and
857 included in curricula and the public domain.

858 We demand the same rights and responsibilities for all despite their sexual
859 orientation. We demand legalization of same-sex and transgender marriage,
860 adoption of children, artificial insemination and the entire legal framework to
861 guarantee equality. Jurisprudence must not impose a model of family.

862 The definition of one's sexual identity should be in each individual's own
863 hands. Everybody must be free to change sex. Right and access to sex
864 reassignment must be guaranteed and paid for via public health care. We deplore
865 the practice of requiring individuals to undergo sterilization before a sex
866 change and we strive to abolish such requirements in European countries.
867 Receiving legal recognition of gender identity must not require any medical
868 intervention.

869 We particularly deplore homophobia and transphobia. We demand the de-
870 pathologization of homosexuality and transsexuality.

871 We demand that the EU, its member states and civil society support and defend
872 LGBTQ rights and LGBTQ movements in other countries.

873 **Disability**

874 A fair society is based on equal rights and equal access. FYEG supports people
875 with disabilities in their fight for equal rights and access. Society has
876 historically marginalised people with disabilities by creating special areas and
877 by not adapting public space to everybody's needs. This denial of equal access
878 to social, political, and economic life must end.

879 We demand that urbanism and architecture integrate the needs of people with
880 disabilities and contribute to the creation of an inclusive public space for
881 all. Accessibility benefits not only people with disabilities but everybody.

882 Access to braille, communication aids or sign languages must be broadened as
883 well as access to information, media and interaction facilities for people with
884 disabilities.

885 **Age**

886 FYEG is opposed to age discrimination. The description of young people as
887 essentially immature and unreasonable is the basis for underrepresentation in
888 decision-making processes. It is crucial to promote the participation of youth
889 to shape the social, economic, cultural and environmental decisions, which
890 affect them. We refuse to be "youth for youth" and seek to participate in all
891 decision making processes as equal and respected stakeholders.

892 We are aware of the need for intergenerational solidarity. The discourse that
893 excludes the elderly from active participation and secludes them into designated
894 areas is driven by the same mechanisms we denounce in the case of youth. Thus,
895 we refuse to believe in the stereotype of senile, disillusioned and necessarily
896 conservative seniors. Youth and the elderly are linked by an assumption that
897 both groups are outside the economy as active labour and are therefore of lesser
898 value, a concept contrary to all our beliefs.

899 **Intercultural Society**

900 FYEG acknowledges that European populations do not fit the idea of monolithic
901 cultural entities at all. Europe is a diverse continent and we need to draw
902 inspiration from this fact. Nation states were never and are not identical with
903 any kind of coherent, static and closed culture.

904 To us, ideas of national identity make no sense. European policies require an
905 intercultural perspective in order to overcome hate and discrimination towards
906 groups that do not correspond to these nationalist norms. We also oppose the
907 view that migrants need to go through a process of assimilation, which often
908 includes a rejection of their own identity. This leads to institutionalised
909 racism on a European and national level. Societies should accept complex
910 identities and personal histories.

911 The institutions of our societies do not reflect their diversity. Hidden
912 barriers and obstacles, as well as structural racism in institutions, need to be
913 addressed and fought, especially in politics and the media, which often create a
914 tense atmosphere with unbalanced and destructive coverage of migrant issues.

915 Language, as one key tool in an intercultural society, has great practical,
916 social and cultural value. Therefore, we believe that learning foreign languages
917 must be promoted at all levels of society. Empowering individuals to learn from
918 others and increasing communication between people from different backgrounds is
919 a vital first step to overcome boundaries and divisions.

920 **Religion**

921 For us, no religion is better or worse than others. Churches must be separated
922 from the state and no religion should have privileged status. In an
923 intercultural society it must be possible for everyone to live in a climate of
924 peace, mutual respect and tolerance regardless of their individual view of life
925 in general.

926 In many countries this means that existing privileges need to be abolished. We
927 stand for a secular state where religious laws are not considered as above or
928 outside civic law. With respect to diversity, traditions and customs, religious
929 laws, structures and procedures need to respect state laws as highest reference.
930 This is crucial for the preservation of human rights and equality. Governments
931 need to stay away from amalgamation of state and religious affairs.

932 **Anti-Fascism**

933 FYEG is opposed to nationalism. We reject the idea that membership in a
934 constructed entity gives people certain traits and realise the divisive and
935 blinding nature of such an idea.

936 Fascism has played a terrible role in European history, imposing monolithic
937 identities and turning its invisible violence into open violence. The fascist
938 attack on personal freedom and diversity as well as its crimes against humanity
939 are the reasons we define ourselves as anti-fascist and are in solidarity with
940 the anti-fascist movement.

941

- **Ecology**

942 Ecology is present throughout this document, and is the basis of our Green
943 thinking. The earth has limited resources, and we have to plan our sustainable
944 social model based on those limits.

945 **Value of Nature**

946 FYEG believes that nature has an intrinsic value. All conflicts between society
947 and nature are products of an unhealthy, unsustainable and unethical perception
948 of nature. Long-term sustainability, preservation of local ecosystems and
949 stability of ecological cycles have to be prioritized and set as "necessary
950 conditions" for any exploitation of any natural resource.

951 All ecological issues must be understood and solved in a holistic and
952 interlinked way, rather than downplayed as technical issues within the field of
953 environmentalism to be solved by technological improvements.

954 Since nature is a very complex system of life cycles, we have neither reason nor
955 rationale for having blind faith in technology for fully understanding all the
956 ecological crises, much less solving them through technical means rather than
957 comprehensive social change.

958 **Climate Change**

959 Climate change is one of the greatest and most urgent crises of our current
960 society. Without immediate radical action on a global scale humanity faces
961 likely catastrophic climatic changes. Extreme climate and weather patterns not
962 seen during the development of civilisation will become the norm, having
963 potentially drastic adverse effects on humans, animals and plants.

964 The scientific world is unsure exactly how soon we may tip the delicate climate
965 balance into positive feedback loops which would then leave us on an all but
966 unstoppable path to several degrees of catastrophic global warming. We therefore
967 urgently need sufficiently ambitious global legally binding agreement to reduce
968 CO2e emissions in line with scientific recommendations.

969 Such an agreement has to be prepared and underpinned by ambitious strategies and
970 measures on national, regional and local level. The agreement has to be built on
971 principles of global justice and resisting countries must be brought to a common
972 playing field through climate tariffs. Countries in the Global North must
973 acknowledge that the largest share of global CO2 per capita emissions originated
974 in their countries and currently continue to do so, resulting in a widening gap
975 with the Global South.

976 Therefore they must agree a suitable fund to help other countries mitigate and
977 adapt to climate change.

978 FYEG demands the implementation of an international carbon tax to mitigate
979 carbon emissions and to reduce global inequalities. Considering vested interests
980 at play within international markets, we do not believe market mechanisms alone
981 can adequately mitigate emissions.

982 All countries must increase their efforts in order to ensure atmospheric
983 greenhouse gas concentrations are rapidly reduced to ensure we do not exceed a
984 temperature rise of 1.5°C. This figure of 1.5°C must always remain consistent
985 with the most recent scientific recommendations with consideration to the
986 precautionary principles as described by the United Nations Framework Convention
987 on Climate Change.

988 **Biodiversity**

989 Biodiversity is fundamental to healthy ecosystems and of great importance to our
990 well-being, both physically and psychologically. As well as being integral to

991 the economy, biodiversity provides irreplaceable natural services; it is also a
992 vast medicinal resource and for many also plays an important spiritual and
993 cultural role.

994 We are currently facing the simultaneous ecological disasters of climate change
995 and biodiversity loss, both of which are directly related to our society's
996 unsustainable economic system, overconsumption, use of toxic chemicals and the
997 related unsustainable practices and habits.

998 One of the most devastating aspects of biodiversity loss is the current mass
999 extinction of species, caused by a number of serious, deep- rooted problems such
1000 as habitat destruction, climate change, land use changes, the introduction of
1001 invasive species, genetic pollution, monoculture and overexploitation.

1002 FYEG believes wide-ranging measures are necessary to deal with these problems,
1003 including fundamental changes to our economic system and our way of life. As
1004 well as rapidly reducing our exploitation and wastage of land and other natural
1005 resources we need to ban unsustainable practices for example genetic
1006 modification of animals and plants and strictly regulate the use of various
1007 chemicals.

1008 Immediate radical action must be taken at all levels of society from local to
1009 global and we believe Europe is financially well set to lead the way. Europe's
1010 role is especially important considering the historic damage Europe has
1011 inflicted on global ecological systems. The European Union must switch to a
1012 holistic approach to biodiversity, recognizing the direct links with climate
1013 change, agriculture, pollution, transport and energy issues. These aspects
1014 should be taken as principles in all foreign policy and development cooperation
1015 of the EU.

1016 Any implementation must be taken with full cooperation of those communities
1017 affected and all stakeholders must be fully involved in the long process to
1018 address this issue.

1019 **Agriculture, Food and Rural Life**

1020 The "Green Revolution" brought us energy intensive agricultural practices,
1021 known as industrialized agriculture, which has destroyed ecosystems, seriously
1022 harmed biodiversity and lead to the loss of fertile land which is becoming a
1023 serious problem. It brought us a centralized seed market, with high performance
1024 seeds, which need high input of chemicals and fertilizers to grow and are not
1025 able to adjust to changing conditions and diseases.

1026 The change of agricultural practices all over the world goes hand in hand with
1027 the globalization of food markets, which set the focus on cost efficiency over
1028 sustainability. In order to compete in this market wages are reduced and working
1029 methods mechanised. This leads to monocultures and loss of work leads to
1030 unsustainable urbanisation.

1031 Food processing and distribution has been monopolized creating significant
1032 obstacles for small farmers who don't have the money to invest in the machines

1033 they need to match the standards of big food companies.

1034 Since the most basic and important livelihood of billions is falling apart and
1035 the food security and safety of the rest of society is under severe threat, FYEG
1036 demands immediate action: to stop unsustainable, unfair, energy-intensive,
1037 centralized practices and policies on the one hand, and to implement
1038 sustainable, fair and energy-efficient, decentralized, democratic and local
1039 practices and policies on the other hand.

1040 There are many positive trends working towards sustainability, fairness, energy-
1041 efficiency and decentralization. Financial support for agricultural activities
1042 should be directed towards ecologically and socially sustainable
1043 practices. Organic farming must become the standard form of food production.
1044 Other forms of bringing food production closer to consumers and making it
1045 visible in everyday life in cities is also important. Community gardening and
1046 urban farming, while usually small-scale, helps us re-think our relationship to
1047 food, as well as being a positive form of reclaiming unused urban space.

1048 Our growing need for both food and living space must be solved without large-
1049 scale expansion of either cities into rural areas or of agriculture into
1050 especially biodiverse areas.

1051 Local seed production is needed, not GMOs and high performance seeds. The right
1052 to store and sow seeds should not be limited, and seed patents should not be
1053 allowed for human as well as for animal feeding.

1054 GMOs are no solution to the food crisis and should be banned. They can have a
1055 harmful impact on local ecosystems and support multinational seed companies, who
1056 take away the freedom of the farmers with unfair contracts. We are however, not
1057 inherently against publicly funded research into GM products.

1058 The unsustainable fishing practices of the EU is a serious problem for food
1059 security and biodiversity. Overfishing in European waters has lead to an
1060 unsustainable amount of fish, which in turn leads to socially unacceptable
1061 fishing agreements. This leads to overfishing and destroys the livelihood of
1062 local fishermen.

1063 Fish farming currently is a threat to biodiversity and wild fish, and massively
1064 pollutes oceans, seas and lakes. If fish is farmed, it must take place either on
1065 land or with suitable mitigation measures.

1066 In the European Union, the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is the most
1067 important tool to influence agricultural practices. Today it serves to support
1068 industrialized agriculture and export-orientated farming.

1069 This has to be ended. Public money should go towards public goods. The CAP
1070 should support farming styles and agricultural practices which ensure
1071 biodiversity and a sustainable environment. It should support rural areas
1072 through the support of regional markets and small-scale farming, allowing local
1073 communities to be autonomous in relation to food. A change in the CAP could
1074 offer an opportunity to fight climate change by encouraging farming of edible

1075 crops instead of meat for consumption.

1076 **Bioethics**

1077 FYEG sees value also in life itself. In addition to the obvious value of
1078 ecosystems and consciousness, living beings in general must be treated with
1079 respect. We strongly oppose any misuse, abuse and objectification of living
1080 beings.

1081 Vegetarianism and veganism are preferable over other diets, not only for their
1082 environmental benefits, but also out of respect for life itself. Lifestyles
1083 using few or no animal products should be made possible and supported at all
1084 stages of life, including public institutions. We support legislation and the
1085 distribution of public resources to reduce animal consumption.

1086 In the life saving medical and physical sciences we strongly encourage the
1087 development of alternatives to animal testing. In all other branches of industry
1088 and science animal testing must be banned. Furthermore, we call for pain-free
1089 husbandry, especially agricultural animal farming and the introduction of
1090 adequate regulations. We want to abolish the keeping of animals for circuses.
1091 Zoos and other areas where animals are simply for people's entertainment need to
1092 be abolished and large zoos need to be transformed into parks. Hunting as a
1093 hobby must be discontinued. We need more nature reserves and programmes for the
1094 preservation of endangered species.

1095 Conservation efforts must be decoupled from entertainment using animals such as
1096 zoos and circuses, which we see as denigrating and often abusive.

1097 **Ecology as the Fundament of Our Society**

1098 Reality has a Green bias in that there are objective limits to material growth
1099 and expansion. These restrictions set by our material reality are a frame that
1100 all politics has to work within, and the Green movement has been the first,
1101 though hopefully not the last, to recognize this.

1102 The consumption of non-renewable resources has always been and remains a short-
1103 term option, whereas the values of nature that are destroyed by such short-term
1104 actions may remained indefinitely. All of society needs to recognize the long-
1105 term value which being destroyed for short-term gains. Society must be re-
1106 structured to serve a long term perspective.

1107

- **Conclusion**

1108 This document outlines our basic political beliefs and stances. It creates a
1109 philosophical framework for action at a local level and enables the Federation
1110 to elaborate concrete topical policy papers and act politically in accordance.

1111 Through creative discussion and debates we have improved our knowledge and
1112 established a mutual understanding across the Federation bringing our members
1113 closer together.

1114 To bring about the much needed change in our fight for global social and
1115 environmental justice, we strive to build alliances with other political forces
1116 and actors. We shall do this on the basis of the ideas and concepts we outline
1117 in this political platform both inside and outside the Green Family.

1118 A mandate for FYEG and its bodies is hereby established through our vision of a
1119 better future. Collectively we will fight for this future!

1120
1121
1122
1123
1124
1125
1126
1127
1128

1129

- **Glossary**

1130 **Democracy:**

1131 1. **E-democracy:** the use of information and communication technologies to engage
1132 citizens, support the democratic decision-making process and strengthen
1133 democracy.

1134 2. **Free software and Open source:** publicly licensed and available source code,
1135 granting users the right to use, copy, study, change, and improve the structure
1136 or design of software.

1137 3. **Net neutrality:** the principle that advocates no restrictions by Internet
1138 Service Providers or governments on users of the internet.

1139 **Economy:**

1140 4. **Wealth:** abundance of valuable possessions or money.

1141 5. **Wage labour:** the socio-economic relationship between a worker and an
1142 employer, where the worker sells their labour under a formal or informal
1143 employment contract.

- 1144 6. **Neoliberal**: relating to or denoting a modified form of liberalism tending to
1145 favour free-market capitalism.
- 1146 7. **Materialism**: a tendency to consider material possessions and physical comfort
1147 as more important than other values such as social, cultural or spiritual.
- 1148 8. **Consumerism**: the preoccupation of society with the acquisition of consumer
1149 goods.
- 1150 9. **Profit maximisation**: the process by which a firm determines the price and
1151 output level that returns the greatest profit.
- 1152 10. **Production factors**: factors of production (or productive
1153 'inputs' or 'resources') are any commodities or services used to produce goods
1154 and services.
- 1155 11. **Intergenerational**: between generations e.g. intergenerational equity means
1156 equality between generations not simply within generations (intragenerational
1157 equity).
- 1158 12. **Intragenerational**: occurring or existing between members of
1159 one generation.
- 1160 13. **Sustainability**: meets the needs of the present without compromising the
1161 ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- 1162 14. **Gross Domestic Product**: the total value of goods produced and services
1163 provided in a country during one year.
- 1164 15. **Purchasing power**: purchasing power is the number of goods/services that can
1165 be purchased with a unit of currency. For example, if you had taken one dollar
1166 to a store in the 1950s, you would have been able to buy a greater number of
1167 items than you would today, indicating that you would have had a greater
1168 purchasing power in the 1950s.
- 1169 16. **Cooperative**: an organisation that is owned and run jointly by its members,
1170 who share the profits or benefits.
- 1171 17. **Fiscal system**: of or relating to government revenue, especially taxes.
- 1172 18. **Monetary policy**: monetary policy is the process by which the monetary
1173 authority of a country controls the supply of money, often targeting a rate of
1174 interest for the purpose of promoting economic growth and stability.
- 1175 19. **Deficit**: an excess of expenditure or liabilities over income or assets in a

1176 given period.

1177 20. **Surplus:** an excess of income or assets over expenditure or liabilities in a
1178 given period, typically a fiscal year.

1179 21. **Macro-economic trends:** the behaviour of the aggregate economy, including
1180 economy-wide phenomena such as changes in unemployment, national income, rate of
1181 growth, gross domestic product, inflation and price levels.

1182 22. **Inflation:** A general increase in prices and fall in the purchasing value of
1183 money.

1184 23. **Tax harmonisation:** tax harmonisation refers to the process of making taxes
1185 identical or at least similar in a region. In practice, it usually means
1186 increasing tax in low-tax jurisdictions, rather than reducing tax in high-tax
1187 jurisdictions or a combination of both.

1188 24. **Real economy:** The real economy generally refers to the

1189 nonfinancial economy—for example, manufacturing, farming, trade, and services.

1190 25. **Accumulation:** the accumulation of capital is the gathering or amassing of
1191 objects of value; the increase in wealth through concentration; or the creation
1192 of wealth.

1193 26. **Qualification agencies:** financial rating agencies which calculate how risky
1194 investments are.

1195 27. **Periphery:** periphery countries (sometimes referred to as just the periphery)
1196 are those that are less “developed” than the semi-periphery and core
1197 countries. These countries usually receive a disproportionately small share of
1198 global wealth. They have weak state institutions and are exploited by more
1199 developed countries. By the exploitation of periphery country's agriculture,
1200 cheap labour, and natural resources core countries can remain dominant.

1201 28. **Anthropogenic:** originating in human activity

1202 29. **Carbon capture and storage:** Carbon capture and storage (CCS), (carbon
1203 capture and sequestration), refers to technology attempting to prevent the
1204 release of large quantities of CO₂ into the atmosphere from fossil fuel use in
1205 power generation and other industries by capturing CO₂, transporting it and
1206 ultimately, pumping it into underground geologic formations to securely store it
1207 away from the atmosphere.

1208 30. **Geo-engineering:** Geo-engineering (or climate engineering)

1209 means proposals to deliberately manipulate the Earth's climate to counteract the
1210 effects of global warming from greenhouse gas emissions.

1211 **Social Europe**

1212 31. **Basic income:** income unconditionally granted to all on an individual basis,
1213 without means testing or work requirements.

1214 32. **Vis-à-vis:** literally 'face to face'. Often now used in the sense of 'in
1215 relation to'.

1216 33. **International Labour Organisation (ILO):** is the

1217 international organization responsible for drawing up and overseeing
1218 international labour standards

1219 **Global Justice, Peace and Human Rights**

1220 34. **Global South:** the collective title for states of South and Central America,
1221 Africa and most of the Asian states, considered as countries with a lower rate
1222 of "development".

1223 35. **Global North:** the collective title for the countries of Europe,

1224 North America and Australasia, considered highly "developed".

1225 36. **NATO:** the North Atlantic Treaty Organization is an intergovernmental
1226 military alliance based on the North Atlantic Treaty, signed on 1949. It is a
1227 collective defence force whereby its member states agree to mutual defence in
1228 response to an attack by any external party.

1229 37. **FRONTEX:** the European Agency for the Management of

1230 Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the
1231 European Union is the European Union agency for external border security. It is
1232 responsible for coordinating the activities of the national border guards in
1233 ensuring the security of the EU's borders with non-member states.

1234 38. **UNHCR:** the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, also
1235 known as the UN Refugee Agency is a United Nations agency mandated to protect
1236 and support refugees at the request of a government or the UN itself and assists
1237 in their voluntary repatriation, local integration or resettlement to a third
1238 country.

1239 **Identity, Equality and Inclusion**

1240 39. **Social oppression:** the systematic, socially accepted mistreatment and
1241 exploitation of a group or category of people by anyone. In sociology, the tools
1242 of oppression include a progression of denigration, dehumanization, and
1243 demonisation; which often generate scapegoating, which is used to justify
1244 aggression against targeted groups and individuals.

1245 40. **Cultural adaptation:** the sociological process of assimilation.

1246 It is a socio-political response to demographic multiculturalism that supports
1247 or promotes the assimilation of cultural and ethnic minorities into the dominant
1248 culture. Assimilation usually involves a gradual change and takes place in
1249 varying degrees; full assimilation occurs when new members of a society become
1250 indistinguishable from older members and they are forced to abandon their own
1251 values, culture, history and identity.

1252 41. **Queer Theory:** a field of post-structuralist critical theory that

1253 emerged in the early 1990s out of the fields of queer studies and Women's
1254 studies. Whereas gay/lesbian studies focused its inquiries into "natural" and
1255 "unnatural" behaviour with respect to homosexual behaviour, queer theory expands
1256 its focus to encompass any kind of sexual activity or identity that falls into
1257 normative and deviant categories.

1258 42. **Queer:** an umbrella term for sexual minorities that are not heterosexual,
1259 heteronormative, or gender-binary. In the context of Western identity politics
1260 the term also acts as a label setting queer-identifying people apart from
1261 discourse, ideologies, and lifestyles that typify mainstream LGBT (lesbian, gay,
1262 bisexual, and transsexual) communities as being oppressive or assimilationist.

1263 43. **Churches:** refers to all kinds of religious institution, not only Christian.

1264 **Ecology**

1265 44. **Green Revolution:** a series of technological innovations, transfers and
1266 research initiatives which rapidly increased agricultural production around the
1267 world between 1940 and 1970, but now recognised to have had negative social and
1268 ecological consequences.

1269 45. **Precautionary principle:** Principle 3 of the 1992 Rio Declaration on
1270 Environment and Development. Article 3.3 refers to the precautionary principle,
1271 which is widely reflected in environmental law and environmental agreements:
1272 "Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full
1273 scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing such
1274 measures" – a statement which closely mirrors the wording of Principle 15 of
1275 the Rio Declaration.

Reason

Adopted by the General Assembly, May 2012

Updated by General Assembly, May 2018