

C3 To a more just and transparent membership fee system

Proposer: Belgium Flemish Young Greens (Jong Groen)
Agenda item: 3 Resolutions

Text

1 FYEG does a wonderful job at campaigning for a fair and transparent tax system.
2 We are on the forefront of a more fair tax system within the European Union and
3 the rest of the world. This is something to be proud of and to continue.

4 In this fight however, it is important to lead by example. So we, from Jong
5 Groen, think that it is time for a self-evaluation. Being self critical can help
6 building an even better organization than we already are. In the past we
7 witnessed discussions on membership fees and noticed a lack of transparency. We
8 know how much the membership fees contribute to the total budget, but we do not
9 know how much every MO contributes. Experience shows that a lack of transparency
10 can lead to misunderstanding, especially when discussing sensitive issues in
11 which power relations might come into play. That's why it is time to change the
12 system. We want to create an environment of transparency within FYEG where we
13 discuss as equals, no matter how much we contribute.

14 We call upon FYEG to:

15 • start working on a more transparent budget. All MO contributions should be
16 made public and how their annual budgets were assessed by FYEG as well. If
17 not public, at least the members of the GA should be properly informed.
18 Having budget transparency: (1) limits the likelihood of conflicts, (2)
19 strengthens FYEG's work and decision making and (3) makes the organisation
20 sustainable and criticproof on the long term.

21 • never allow transparency to create divisions between the large
22 contributors and the smaller ones. We acknowledge that when membership
23 fees are out in the open, this could lead to ways of pressuring. This is
24 the opposite of what this amendment is trying to achieve. Complete
25 transparency should lead to a more equal environment, open for discussion.

26 • think about a new contribution system. Today, the rules, cf. internal
27 rules of procedure section 5.2, state that "Each full MO is requested to
28 pay 1% of their last year's realised budget with a minimum of 50 EUR for
29 the EU". First of all the rules are unclear and might lead to different
30 interpretations of what "total budget" is. Secondly, these rules boil down
31 to a flat tax rate which is regressive and not progressive. For us it is
32 time to evolve to a more progressive system with clear rules and
33 definitions. Rules taking into account the size of the MO and other
34 relevant factors. FYEG should create a just system where everybody

35 contributes according to their own capacity.