

PP2-III new FYEG Political Platform - A Sustainable Europe

Proposers:

Agenda item: 2 New FYEG Political Platform

Political Platform text

1 3. A Sustainable Europe

2 The climate crisis is the largest threat facing humanity. FYEG considers the
3 current economic system of material growth and environmental exploitation as a
4 root cause of climate change. To stop climate change, we need a shift towards a
5 democratic economy able to properly address environmental damage, the use of
6 natural resources and the voices of groups affected (see chapter 4). Without
7 urgent action, it will jeopardise many human achievements and fundamental
8 rights, endanger food and water supply, and put many territories at risk.
9 Climate change is also likely to have important geopolitical consequences.

10 FYEG considers climate change a real injustice. Those who are the most
11 responsible for climate change are least likely to be affected by it, whereas
12 those who are the least responsible will bear the brunt of its negative effects.
13 FYEG believes it is essential to adopt an intersectional approach highly
14 critical of capitalism when analysing the causes and effects of the climate
15 crisis. We advocate for just solutions to the climate crisis that take into
16 account the racial, gender, class, age, disability, and colonial dimensions of
17 the climate crisis.

18 Since the adoption of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change* in 1992,
19 the Paris Agreement* in 2015, and the declaration of climate emergency by the
20 European Parliament in 2019, and thanks to the work of many activists and
21 scientists, awareness of the seriousness of the crisis has grown. But the
22 actions that have been taken to tackle climate change, including those of the
23 EU, are still widely insufficient. The world is still on track for an increase
24 in global temperatures way above 2 degrees Celsius compared to pre-industrial
25 levels*.

26 The climate crisis is not the only global existential crisis humanity is facing.
27 The biodiversity crisis is also a reality, the seriousness of which is still
28 being underestimated. The sixth mass extinction*, resulting from human activity,
29 is accelerating. Various sources of pollution are still the cause of many

30 diseases and deaths.

31 FYEG considers these crises as symptoms of an economic system that relies on
32 unlimited economic growth, the exploitation of animals and nature. We need to
33 rethink that relationship and offer concrete solutions to these crises.

34 **a. An urgent and just transition towards climate neutrality**

35 FYEG supports the objective of maintaining global warming below 1.5 degrees
36 Celsius. Much stronger action is needed to fight climate change, directly
37 tackling root causes. This implies changing our entire economic system in an
38 extremely short time altering our production and consumption patterns, in a just
39 way, for emissions to drop overall. These types of shifts cannot be done by the
40 market; instead, strong action from the state is needed.

41 European countries historically holds greater responsibility for climate change
42 than most parts of the world. This means that European Countries holds a bigger
43 responsibility to tackle climate change and its worldwide consequences. European
44 countries and the EU must be the frontrunner in reducing their greenhouse gas
45 emissions. Countries with the most resources should be even more ambitious and
46 reach their climate objectives earlier.

47 FYEG supports the objective of reaching climate neutrality in Europe by 2030.

48 We encourage EU member states to implement a general tax on greenhouse gas
49 emissions. The amount of the levy is equal to the damage that the greenhouse gas
50 can cause per kilogram. In addition, this amount can be higher if it appears
51 that the objectives are not being achieved. FYEG is also in favour of further
52 using the European emission trading system by drastically lessen the number of
53 emission rights.

54 Europe must also provide support in reducing their greenhouse gas emissions to
55 poorer countries, including via financial support and technology transfer. It
56 must also assist them in tackling the effects of climate change, as well as
57 supporting them in making their societies, their economies, and their food and
58 water supplies more resilient to climate change. We must also be careful to
59 ensure that Europe's path to climate neutrality does not involve externalising
60 emissions to third countries. Instead, it should aim to reduce the emissions
61 caused in third countries as a result of European consumption.

62 Globally, but also within Europe, the transition towards a climate neutral
63 economy must be socially just. We are concerned about the unequal impact of
64 climate change and of environmental hazards which often disproportionately
65 affect poor people and marginalised groups. We need to make sure our response to

66 the climate crisis does not reinforce existing inequalities. For example, the
67 extraction of rare minerals needed for this transition should not be at the
68 expense of the populations of the countries in which those minerals can be
69 found.

70
71 While we believe that technological progress has an important role to play in
72 solving the climate and biodiversity crises, we are critical of approaches that
73 tend to overestimate the positive impact of uncertain future technologies to
74 avoid addressing core issues and engage in systemic change. An example is carbon
75 capture and storage*, often used as a reason for less ambitious emissions
76 targets, in spite of the fact that the technology has not yet been fully
77 developed.

78 Current mainstream environmental and climate policies do not affect everyone in
79 the same way. FYEG calls for those policies to be both socially just and to
80 fight inequalities. We call for support measures for every worker at risk of
81 losing their job because of the transition towards a carbon neutral economy*.
82 They should receive help including, but not limited to, having a job guaranteed
83 and having access to retraining. It is also important to reinforce our social
84 welfare mechanisms (see chapter 5) and to take into account the gender and
85 racial aspects of a just transition*. Failure to tackle the climate crisis would
86 have terrible implications for all, including workers. We should make the
87 transition a just transition.

88 **b. Energy**

89 In order to meet our climate objectives, a deep transformation of our energy
90 system is needed.

91 Europe must phase out all fossil fuels, starting with coal and fracked gas*,
92 which must be phased out in Europe by 2027 at the latest. Fossil fuels must be
93 replaced by renewable and emission-free solutions: wind energy, solar energy,
94 marine energy, , and waste heat recovery*. The production of electricity should
95 be 100% renewable by 2035 at the latest. Taxpayers' money must therefore not
96 finance fossil fuels. The opening or extension of fossil fuel extraction sites
97 must be prohibited immediately, and existing sites should be closed as soon as
98 possible. New fossil fuel infrastructure should not be built in Europe. This
99 includes gas infrastructure.

100 It is also crucial that the energy gap in certain areas in Europe can be quickly
101 filled in and that an optimal energy mix across the continent is achieved.

102 FYEG supports energy democracy and stands for the development of a decentralised
103 and interconnected energy system. Energy systems should be localised. We support
104 forms of collective ownership of energy production, such as energy cooperatives.

105 Networks to transport energy are crucial to enable this transition; they should
106 be owned, developed, and operated as commons, for example being publicly owned.

107 The cleanest and quickest way to achieve the energy transition is to reduce our
108 energy consumption. Efforts should be made to improve energy efficiency, to
109 renovate all buildings, and to transform the industry. Governments must organise
110 the renovation and insulation of all buildings by 2030. This would also play a
111 key role in reducing energy poverty across Europe.

112 Although nuclear energy* emits less carbon emissions, it raises high risks and
113 many serious long-term concerns that by far outweigh the benefits and we
114 strongly take a stand against any attempt to frame nuclear energy as a climate
115 change solution. These include issues regarding the extraction of uranium*, the
116 disposal of nuclear waste, the safety of nuclear installations, the security
117 measures and level of state control required, the huge consequences of potential
118 accidents, the link with nuclear weapons, the long time it takes to build, the
119 fact that it does not improve the stability of the electricity grid and the
120 significant cost, which could much more efficiently be used to pay for renewable
121 energy sources. Potential solutions such as nuclear fusion* will be unable to
122 provide a concrete response in time to solve the climate crisis. We therefore
123 believe that the construction of new nuclear plants should be avoided at all
124 cost, and that nuclear energy should be phased out as soon as possible across
125 Europe. The phase-out of nuclear energy should be carried out in a way that does
126 not endanger climate objectives. European countries should not export their
127 nuclear technology or build nuclear plants outside of Europe.

128 We believe natural carbon sinks* such as forests, oceans, wetlands, and
129 peatlands have an important role to play in reducing the concentration of
130 greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Policies should be adopted to protect and
131 enhance their potential. On the other hand, technologies such as geo-
132 engineering* are often presented as solutions to fight climate change, but their
133 large-scale efficiency remains undemonstrated and their risks remain unclear to
134 the public. While their full potentials are still yet to be seen, these
135 technologies should never be used as an excuse to continue the burning of fossil
136 fuels and delay real climate action.

137 **c. Water, food and agriculture**

138 Water is the backbone of life and agricultural production. It therefore must not
139 be considered as a commodity. Water sources and resources must be protected from
140 potential pollution through agriculture, mining, production, construction and
141 waste disposal. Food is essential to life. It therefore cannot be considered as
142 a commodity. FYEG stands for food and agricultural policies that guarantee that
143 every person has access to local, healthy, diversified and quality food.

144 Farmers and agricultural workers play an essential role in ensuring this right
145 to food and their own rights should be respected, as enshrined in the United
146 Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural
147 Areas*. Farmers and agricultural workers should be able to earn a decent revenue
148 from their work. We believe in a model consisting of numerous small- and medium-
149 scale farms, guaranteeing thriving countrysides.

150 Industrialised agriculture is responsible for substantial greenhouse gas
151 emissions, massive biodiversity loss, water scarcity, soil depletion, and a
152 range of public health issues (e.g. antimicrobial resistance*). A transition
153 towards a form of agriculture which respects the environment, preserves soil,
154 water, and the climate, and is based on agroecological practices and organic
155 agriculture is urgently needed. Artificial fertilisers and pesticides* must be
156 phased out within a reasonable time frame, starting with the most dangerous
157 (e.g. neonicotinoids and glyphosate). A rapid drop in animal farming and in the
158 consumption of animal products is also needed with the goal of phasing out
159 industrial livestock production. Traditional indigenous livelihoods such as
160 hunting, fishing and animal herding must be protected. In general, we consider it
161 desirable that as little meat as possible is consumed, taking into account
162 health concerns and the aforementioned issues. This would improve public health
163 and animal welfare as well as drastically reduce the environmental impact of
164 food production. The precautionary use of antibiotics in animal farming must be
165 banned immediately and the maximum amount of animals held per area must be
166 drastically limited.

167 Food systems should be rebuilt on the principles of food sovereignty*,
168 eliminating corporate capture of food, reducing food waste, prioritising short
169 supply chains and locally produced food, ending imports of deforestation-driving
170 products such as soy or palm oil, and making sure that European agriculture is
171 not exported in a way that harms agricultural systems in other countries. To
172 achieve this, we need a food production system that ensures environmental and
173 economic sustainability and food security for all, without endangering the food
174 security* of future generations. It is of utmost importance to find ways to
175 guarantee an economically viable system that does not have negative effects on
176 nature and the wider environment.

177
178 To this end, FYEG looks positively towards promising new methods of food
179 production. Research capacities have to be significantly strengthened and
180 mainstreamed in order to find ways of reducing the environmental impact of the
181 food system, while guaranteeing farmers' rights and ensuring decent living
182 conditions in rural areas. Forms of urban farming such as vertical farming can
183 offer solutions to provide cities with sustainable food, since they reduce the
184 use of some natural resources, such as land area and water. Since sustainable
185 methods of clean meat-production could potentially help the transition to a
186 vegetarian society, while also coming with potential risks, research into safe,
187 efficient and environmentally-friendly clean meat*-production needs to be

188 intensified.

189 This transition towards a more sustainable and fairer agricultural system
190 requires changes in the regulatory framework as well as ambitious public
191 policies. FYEG stands for more transparent labelling, with details of origin,
192 composition, methods of production, use of pesticides, animal welfare, and
193 nutritional values. A thorough reform of the Common Agricultural Policy* is
194 needed, taking environmental issues, animal welfare as well as working
195 conditions into account in its subsidy scheme. The promotion of sustainable and
196 plant-based diets should also be encouraged.

197 GMOs in agriculture have both positive and negative effects. GMOs are meant to
198 provide better yields, increase nutritional capacity, or be more resistant to
199 pests and extreme weather conditions. Yet, they can also increase corporate
200 control through patents, increase farmer dependence on biotech firms, and
201 threaten biodiversity through increased unforeseen mutations and increased
202 herbicide and pesticide use. Associated with mono-cropping practices, GMOs make
203 overall ecosystems less resilient to pests. We believe the use of GMOs,
204 including new GMOs, should be regulated and subjected to individual scientific
205 assessments for and by public institutions, concerning all risks to consumers,
206 farmers, and the environment, prior to authorisation. FYEG believes that
207 heirloom seeds and the development of agroecology represent a better solution to
208 the challenges faced by our food system. Moreover, in a world where the amount
209 of food produced would be sufficient to feed all, increasing yield productivity
210 is not the only leverage point to reduce hunger. Food distribution, the
211 reduction of food waste and shifting towards vegetarian diets are all part of
212 the solution. We firmly believe in food and land sovereignty. Financial
213 interests must never be placed above the environment and biodiversity, nor above
214 people.

215 **d. Transport**

216 Transport is responsible for almost a quarter of greenhouse gases emitted in
217 Europe and is one of the only sectors in which emissions have risen in recent
218 years, despite important technological progress. Transport is also one of the
219 main sources of air pollution, which is responsible for the premature deaths of
220 400,000 people in the EU each year. Changes in both practices and modes of
221 transport are needed, with a shift towards zero-emission travel a priority.

222 While keeping up efforts to reduce aircraft emissions, Europe needs to fly less.
223 This can be achieved by introducing a EU-wide kerosene* tax, and an end on both
224 the construction of new airports and the extension of existing ones. Train
225 travel should be favoured over air travel. An effective policy could involve the
226 phase-out of commercial flights for trips where it is possible to use an
227 alternative, more environmentally friendly means of transport with a journey

228 time of less than 10 hours. At the same time, train networks should be further
229 developed, including the construction of high-speed trains and the introduction
230 of more night train routes, with the aim of achieving a network of high-speed
231 lines connecting major cities in Europe. We should prioritise the renovation of
232 existing train tracks over the construction of new ones whenever possible in
233 order to minimise the environmental impact. At the same time, existing secondary
234 lines in rural areas should be maintained and the frequency of their service
235 increased. Efforts should be made to achieve a 100% decarbonised network by
236 2035. Travelling across Europe by train should be made easier, for example by
237 the introduction of a European train ticket system.

238 For everyday shorter journeys, regions and cities should continue developing
239 public transport networks as well as safe and efficient cycling and pedestrian
240 networks. We aim to eliminate the use of private cars in city centres and
241 residential areas. Comprehensive urban planning* plays a crucial role in
242 creating socially accessible and ecologically just cities and residential areas
243 in which people can live, work, and spend free time without having to travel
244 long distances. Insecurity in public transport which disproportionately affect
245 women and gender minorities, should be tackled in order to make public transport
246 really attractive to all. During air pollution peaks, teleworking should be made
247 mandatory. Rural areas should not be left out: regions should guarantee public
248 transport solutions, relying on intermodality between cycling, buses, trains,
249 and private cars. New fossil-fuel vehicles should no longer be available for
250 purchase in Europe by 2025, and their use should be phased out as soon as
251 possible. FYEG also supports efforts to introduce fare-free local public
252 transport throughout Europe, starting with people belonging to vulnerable groups
253 and young people.

254 Further efforts should be made to ensure that public transport is fully
255 accessible for all, including people with disabilities.

256 **e. Rethinking our relation to progress**

257 Technological innovation and new technologies can bring about substantial
258 positive change in society. Progress in the medical sector, in digital
259 technologies, in energy production, and in the development of clean vehicles is
260 crucial to fight the ongoing crises Europe is facing.

261 Technological progress is not always a synonym for social and societal progress.
262 We are firmly attached to the precautionary principle, meaning that innovations
263 should be assessed thoroughly and should be proven harmless for the environment,
264 human health, and society as a whole before being authorised. Uncertainty should
265 not be used as a reason to postpone measures to prevent environmental
266 degradation or preserve public health. New innovations should be open to
267 scientific and public assessment to determine their potential costs and

268 benefits.

269 While we believe that technological progress has an important role to play in
270 solving the climate and biodiversity crises, we are critical of approaches that
271 tend to overestimate the positive impact of uncertain future technologies to
272 avoid addressing core issues and engage in systemic change. An example is carbon
273 capture and storage*, often used as a reason for less ambitious emissions
274 targets, in spite of the fact that the technology has not yet been fully
275 developed.

276 **f. Animal rights**

277 While most European citizens agree that the welfare of animals should be
278 improved, not a lot is being done. We need to consider animals as subjects and
279 sentient beings who should be protected from harm, and we should reflect
280 critically on our place within the animal realm. Animals have rights that should
281 be respected and be taken into account when transitioning towards a sustainable
282 and just agriculture and society. We have to provide an appropriate and painless
283 livelihood especially for animals kept as farm animals.

284 Animals should not be subject to cruel treatment. FYEG stands for the immediate
285 ban of the cruellest practices, such as the production of foie gras through
286 force-feeding*, *corrida**, fur farming, dolphinariums*, and hunting with dogs. We
287 also believe that animals should not be kept in conditions contrary to their
288 natural behaviours. We believe animals should not be allowed to be kept in a
289 circus and that zoos should be subject to a much stronger regulation.

290 Every year, nearly 70 billion land animals are slaughtered worldwide for food.
291 With the industrialisation of animal farming, the conditions in which farm
292 animals live have become worse and worse. It is essential to both reduce the
293 consumption of animal-based products and improve the welfare of farm animals.
294 Cage farming, one of the commonest forms of industrial animal farming, must be
295 banned with immediate effect. FYEG defends the small-farm model in which animals
296 have access to sufficient space, are able to go outdoors, play and interact with
297 others of their kind. Newly created animal breeds that favour rapid animal
298 growth but often cause the animal to suffer should also be phased out. Stronger
299 regulation of animal transport should be put in place, with a ban on the export
300 of live animals outside the EU.

301 We support work towards the abolition of the use of animals in research and
302 support research into techniques that will allow scientists to replace, refine
303 and reduce the number of research animals they use. We recognise the importance
304 of animal welfare and the essential contribution that animals have made and
305 currently make to research that improves human and animal health. We support the
306 replacement (through methods that avoid using animals such as computer (in

307 silico) models, in vitro techniques, or human volunteers), refinement (through
308 improvements to scientific procedures and husbandry that minimise pain,
309 suffering, distress or lasting harm and/or improve animal welfare, for example,
310 through improved housing and husbandry and better welfare assessments) and
311 reduction (through good experimental design and statistical analysis) of the use
312 of animals in in vivo experiments. We oppose in vivo experiments where research
313 animals are not housed or treated in a manner in keeping with international best
314 practice.

315 Wild animals should also benefit from better protection, with the protection of
316 wild natural spaces and the stronger regulation of hunting (see g). The Covid-19
317 pandemic, which likely originated from interactions between wildlife and humans,
318 is one example of the consequences that zoonotic diseases* can have on
319 humankind, and has clearly demonstrated the need to take measures to prevent
320 their development.

321 FYEG also defends stronger regulation in order to fight overfishing, regenerate
322 fish populations, and restore marine ecosystems. The use of fishing techniques
323 with a low impact on the environment should be encouraged, while higher impact
324 techniques such as bottom-contacting fishing gears, electric pulse fishing*, and
325 fish aggregating devices* (FADs) should be banned. Small-scale fisheries have to
326 be prioritised immediately, and measures must be taken to stop the concentration
327 and industrialisation of the fishing sector in Europe. The rapid development of
328 industrialised fish farming in recent years must be addressed with the
329 introduction of stronger regulations on fishing quota, fish welfare and
330 environmental protection. Activities of fishing companies in fishing grounds of
331 lesser developed states, in particular African, must immediately end.
332 Furthermore the EU and European states must end bilateral contracts which allow
333 European companies to raid African fishing grounds. Instead the EU and European
334 states should support African State to build and develop coast guards which
335 have the ability to effectively protect their fishing grounds from foreign
336 intruders.

337 **g. Protecting our natural environment**

338 Nature should not be regarded as a commodity, as something humanity is separated
339 from, but as something that it belongs to. Like climate change, nature knows no
340 borders. We believe it is time that nature be properly recognised and protected.

341 FYEG supports giving rights to nature that ensure its protection under national
342 and international law. We want the crime of ecocide to be recognised in domestic
343 and international criminal law. The most destructive fishing, deforestation,
344 soil degradation, and mining practices should be banned. We must fight
345 overfishing. Hunting should be strongly regulated, no longer permitted for
346 commercial and leisure purposes except for indigenous peoples practising their

347 traditional livelihoods, and only authorised as a last resort to preserve
348 balance within an ecosystem.

349 We support the objective of giving protected status to at least 30% of our
350 planet's land and seas, with 10% granted a particularly high level of
351 protection. The rainforests, coral reefs, Arctic ice pack, and oceans are global
352 commons, and decisions regarding these global commons should be a global concern
353 for all. We reject approaches to nature conservation that perpetuate colonial
354 domination and violate fundamental rights. No one should be displaced or forced
355 to leave their home because of a nature reserve.

356 We are on the brink of mass extinction. It is not enough to just protect
357 ecosystems; we must promote the restoration and renaturalisation of devastated
358 areas according to scientific criteria. Furthermore, our own human ecosystems,
359 such as cities, can and must be renaturalised – allowing space for new
360 ecosystems to flourish.

361 Across the world, environmental defenders are facing threats and violence, with
362 many being murdered for their defence of the environment. This is unacceptable.
363 Defending the natural world is not a crime. Those who threaten environmental
364 defenders must be prosecuted, and the European Union should grant protection and
365 offer asylum to those under threat.

366 The transition to a zero-carbon society might also have an impact on and
367 conflict with nature conservation. The impact of infrastructures such as wind
368 farms, hydropower plants, and high-speed railways should be minimised as much as
369 possible.

PP2-llnew6 FYEG Political Platform - A Democratic Europe

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Political Platform text

2. A Democratic Europe

Democracy is increasingly under attack, both in Europe and elsewhere. Authoritarian leaders ignore democratic principles and violate the rule of law* – even within the European Union. Some states proclaim themselves to be so-called “illiberal democracies”*. At the same time, technological and digital developments are having wide-reaching implications for fundamental rights, posing substantial challenges to our democracies, while also bringing new possibilities for democratic participation and new forms of activism.

FYEG fights for a Europe and a European Union which are truly democratic and embrace and encourage the active participation of their inhabitants. We advocate for the strong protection of the rights of these inhabitants, especially the most vulnerable, young people, and those that engage in activism in order to better our societies.

a. The rule of law

The rule of law is an essential element of democratic societies. In recent years, attacks on the rule of law have multiplied in several European countries, with women and minorities most strongly affected. FYEG stands for reinforcing the independence of the judiciary, accelerating the fight against corruption, and guaranteeing the independence of the media.

In the EU, we call for the full implementation of Article 7 of the Treaty on European Union* allowing for the scrutiny and possible suspension of a Member State’s voting rights in the Council of the EU if they fail to respect the fundamental values of the Union including the rule of law, in the short term. This decision should be taken via qualified majority*. In the long term, the power to impose sanctions on member states and to suspend voting rights of member states in the Council should become matters for the Court of Justice of the European Union* (CJEU). FYEG also supports the implementation of a strong

28 rule of law mechanism*, according to which the granting of EU funding is made
29 conditional upon Member States' respect of the rule of law and fundamental
30 rights.

31 While implementing those tools, we must ensure that citizens are not
32 disadvantaged by their governments' poor behaviour. It should be made possible
33 to bypass corrupt national governments and for EU funds to be directly assigned
34 to local authorities or final beneficiaries. We also call for increased support
35 for individuals and organisations that are fighting for democracy, press
36 freedom, fundamental rights, and the rule of law, for example through the EU
37 Rights and Values programme*. In particular, whistleblowers must benefit from
38 specific protection and support, as they reveal informations and documents of
39 public interest and for the common good.

40 The European judicial system should be reinforced. The Court of Justice of the
41 European Union (CJEU)* should have more power to protect citizens and uphold
42 fundamental rights, including human rights, democracy, freedom of the press and
43 independent justice. The task of imposing suspensions and sanctions is
44 transferred to the Court. We support reinforcing the prerogatives and powers of
45 the European Public Prosecutor's Office* to investigate and press charges in
46 more fields, beginning with corruption, the misuse of public money, and
47 international crime.

48 **b. Democracy**

49 FYEG supports representative democratic systems in which citizens elect
50 representatives to debate issues and make decisions on their behalf. We support
51 parliamentary systems* over presidential systems* in which power is concentrated
52 in the hands of a single person and proper debate is not possible.
53 Representatives should be elected using a system of proportional
54 representation*.

55 Those current systems in which elected officials are seen as being cut off from
56 citizens and not accountable to the electorate are clearly not functioning well
57 enough and are creating mistrust in democracy itself. Action is needed at
58 several levels to protect and improve our democratic systems.

59 To complement representative democratic systems, FYEG supports introducing and
60 reinforcing direct democracy mechanisms such as participatory budgeting*,
61 special assemblies composed of randomly chosen citizens, citizens' initiatives,
62 the right to petition, citizen-initiated referendums*, especially on a local
63 level, the right to challenge*, and representative recalls*. Democratic
64 institutions should also be made more transparent, with all debates open or
65 publicly available, public registers detailing the financial interests of every
66 elected official, and full transparency on lobbying activities.

67

68 But this is not enough: any democracy which does not provide adequate space for
69 debate and reflection is no true democracy, and FYEG therefore supports efforts
70 to create deliberative democracies. Through providing public spaces and
71 opportunities for rational debate and discussion between members of the public
72 and not just talking political heads, through citizenship, deliberation, and
73 participation education in schooling we can ensure that the policies of today
74 that will shape the future - such as on climate change

75 FYEG is also supportive of the subsidiarity principle*. Every decision that
76 affects the lives of citizens should be taken at the level that is closest to
77 them, where they can more easily play an active role and hold their
78 representatives accountable. Local and regional governments should be given more
79 power, and their participation in decision-making processes at the European
80 level should be reinforced. Forms of democracy inspired by the principles of
81 commons* and based on the public, democratic management of the commons should be
82 implemented to the greatest possible extent. Our aim needs to be to create
83 liveable, democratic spaces in our towns and cities.

84 The right to take part in democratic processes should be open to as many people
85 as possible and should be based primarily on a person's place of residence
86 rather than nationality. All foreign citizens should enjoy the right to vote in
87 their place of residence for all elections. Nobody should be deprived of the
88 right to vote because of their age, nationality, ethnicity, the fact that they
89 are in prison, or any other criteria. Young people in particular are
90 systematically excluded from decision-making processes. FYEG stands for lowering
91 the voting age, starting with giving the right to vote to everyone aged 16 and
92 above. FYEG also stands for lowering the voting age to 16 with the prospective to
93 lower the voting age further. Gender quota systems for elections are important
94 tools to redress the underrepresentation of women in politics and should be
95 further adapted to include all underrepresented genders.

96 Action needs to be taken to enable the civic participation of groups and
97 communities that are excluded from participation in decision-making processes.
98 FYEG recognizes that in our society, women, non-binary people, gender non-
99 conforming people, socio-economically disadvantaged people and young people are
100 subjected to higher burdens to political participation, as well as to violence
101 and tokenism. Discrimination constitutes an attack on democracy. Strengthening
102 training, supporting youth political organisations, using non-formal education
103 methods, using gendered speaking lists and quotas are all examples of
104 interventions that build towards full and meaningful participation of all groups
105 in society, thus to the legitimacy of democratic processes.

106 **c. An activist Europe**

107 Democratic participation must never be limited to the polling booth. The right
108 to protest is a fundamental part of democratic culture and must be protected. We
109 encourage active participation in our democracies, not only through political
110 organisations but also through civil society and activist work. The EU, its
111 Member States, and other European states must actively support and encourage
112 civil society and youth political engagement. FYEG engages itself to promote
113 regenerative forms of activism that protect members' physical and mental well-
114 being, and urges the social and environmental movements it partners up with to
115 do so as well.

116 The right to organise and to take part in protests freely, without experiencing
117 threats, intimidation, or violence, should be protected. We also defend the
118 right of journalists and citizens to document demonstrations and police
119 activities during those demonstrations.

120 In their work for a better society, activists often make use of civil
121 disobedience*, . While the authorities may not welcome its use, their reaction
122 to civil disobedience is often disproportionate to the point of being
123 unacceptable. The rights of activists must be defended under all circumstances.

124 This also applies to cases in which actions to bring about effective climate
125 action or defend human rights go against the law as it stands.

126 **d. Towards a federal Europe**

127 Most of the challenges Europe is facing cannot be solved at the local or
128 national level alone. A stronger, more integrated, and federal Europe* is needed
129 to address citizens' demands.

130 As the only directly elected EU institution, the European Parliament* is key to
131 building a stronger Europe. In the short term, its Members should be elected
132 partly on national lists and partly on Union-wide lists, while ensuring the fair
133 representation of all Member States. Instead of being presented with the
134 European Council's* choice of European Commission* president, the European
135 Parliament should be able to elect the candidate of its choice. We believe
136 Commissioners should not be appointed by Member States but chosen by Members of
137 the European Parliament while guaranteeing fair representation of Member States.
138 Moreover, the European Parliament should have the right to initiate legislation.

139 We call on Member States to find a solution to the issue of the seats of
140 different EU institutions, while making sure all decision-making bodies are not
141 concentrated in the same city, country or part of the EU, but are spread across
142 the whole EU. Moreover, the costly moving circus of the European Parliament
143 should be stopped.

144 Many long-awaited progressive initiatives have been blocked by the Council of
145 the European Union*. In the short term, decisions at the Council should be taken
146 by qualified majority* and not by unanimity* on budgetary, social, and fiscal
147 policy. This would both facilitate European action in many fields and reinforce
148 the influence of the European Parliament.

149 In the long term, FYEG demands the election of a European citizens' convention.
150 This body would be responsible for drafting an EU constitution that would
151 replace the existing treaties and pave the way for a federal and truly
152 democratic EU. This EU constitution should then be voted on through a Union-wide
153 referendum.

154 A stronger EU requires a real EU budget. The EU budget should be substantially
155 increased, in particular by the creation of new "own resources"* such as a
156 European kerosene* tax, a carbon tax*, a carbon border adjustment mechanism*, a
157 tax on tech giants, and a tax on financial transactions* (see Chapter 4 – Fiscal
158 policy). The EU should also be able to issue bonds to contribute to its budget.
159 We call for deepened European defence cooperation and in the long term the
160 development of further interoperability between EU member states armies.

161 **e. Public safety**

162 We believe that every person in our societies should be safe and feel safe.
163 Today's mainstream public safety policies are not fulfilling that objective:
164 many citizens still feel unsafe and are being attacked based on their gender,
165 appearance, supposed sexual orientation, or gender identity, and on racist and
166 xenophobic* grounds. Violence is still a major part of our societies. A public
167 safety policy that aims to end violence by employing even more violence, and
168 that is executed at the expense of public freedoms and fundamental rights, is
169 doomed to fail. FYEG stands for a reinvention of public safety policy based on
170 prevention and rehabilitation rather than violence and repression.

171 Prevention should be central. We believe that, among others, better education,
172 the teaching of nonviolent communication, gender equality, and tackling racism
173 contribute to reducing the level of violence in society. Public safety is
174 interlinked with social policies. Implementing stronger social policies and
175 fighting against poverty is key to improvement in the long term. We support the
176 integration of stronger, more situation-specific social policies in
177 neighbourhoods with the highest levels of poverty. Prevention recognises that
178 the police cannot be the solution to every issue. Specific personnel such as
179 psychologists and street and other social workers can work better with people in
180 certain psychological states, with homeless people, and with victims of
181 violence. These jobs should be supported and better funded.

182 The police has become a cornerstone of failing public safety policies. While we

183 believe some form of policing is needed, the police needs to be fundamentally
184 changed. A zero-tolerance policy on racism, sexism, and other hateful conduct in
185 the police is essential. The police should be made accountable for its actions
186 and an independent police oversight body should be put in place to investigate
187 police violence and other complaints. Democratic scrutiny of the police, in
188 which police chiefs are accountable to local assemblies and regularly answer
189 questions during public sessions, is of critical importance. Additionally,
190 policing must be demilitarised. It is unnecessary for the police to have
191 military-like vehicles and heavily armed officers with assault rifles and
192 grenades. There must be structural change – a movement away from state-sponsored
193 violence and repression and towards prevention and cooperation as tools for
194 dealing with conflict in our societies. Defunding the police would lead to this
195 structural change by refocusing public money towards social good.

196 We also support the improvement of the employment and working conditions of
197 police employees. Police employees should receive better training, especially
198 concerning gender-based violence, the tackling of unconscious bias*, nonviolent
199 communication, and nonviolent conflict resolution techniques.

200 Certain policies such as drug policies and migration policies create avoidable
201 violence. The criminalisation of the use, cultivation, and selling of drugs, as
202 well as the criminalisation of migration, actively supports the development of
203 underground mafia systems who rely on the use of violence. FYEG stands for the
204 legalisation of drugs* and opening borders as a way of reducing violence and
205 reinforcing security (see Chapter 5 – Health).

206 The judicial system also has a role to play in the prevention of crime by repeat
207 offenders, by ensuring that convicted people receive adequate psychological
208 support, prioritising alternatives to prison, and promoting the rehabilitation
209 and reintegration of convicted people.

210 **f. Digital rights**

211 As citizens' use of digital products increases, digital rights become more and
212 more important. FYEG believes digital rights are key to fully exercising other
213 fundamental rights, such as the right to access information held by public
214 authorities, to freedom of opinion and expression, and to political activism.
215 Digital activism has become an important part of political activism and must be
216 defended. We therefore stand for an internet in which those rights can be fully
217 exercised and for a regulatory framework that fully protects citizens.

218 Digitalisation* should not be an excuse for states and companies to spy on
219 citizens. Communication via the internet must be protected by encryption. We
220 oppose government-requested loopholes or the weakening of that encryption. The

221 secrecy of correspondence* should be extended to include all digital
222 communication, including metadata*. We defend the principle of self-
223 determination in relation to one's personal data, as well as the outlawing of
224 mass data retention* by private companies. Targeted advertisements and third-
225 party cookies should be made illegal. The right to be forgotten* should also be
226 protected.

227 FYEG believes in the power of free software and open source-based platforms*,
228 which must be strengthened by the European Union in order to guarantee full
229 transparency in the fight for consumer rights. Alternatives to tech giants
230 should be established that abide by these principles. In order for alternatives
231 to emerge, it is essential to defend the principle of net neutrality*.

232 We fight for access to the internet and an accessible internet. This means
233 universal access to the necessary infrastructure and broadband, as well as
234 internet access at no charge. It also means accessibility for disabled people
235 through the mainstreaming of subtitles, alternative text*, etc.

236
237 It is also vital to ensure that people from different backgrounds have equal
238 opportunities to use digital domains. For language minorities it is often
239 difficult or impossible to use their own languages digitally as they lack
240 sufficient digital infrastructure, such as localised software, keyboard layouts,
241 grammar checkers and online dictionaries. The development of language technology
242 resources for minority languages must be supported in order to ensure digital
243 language equality.

244 In times in which almost everyone and everything is digitally connected, we also
245 fight for a stronger right to disconnect* for workers.

246 Digital and technological developments have the power to fundamentally change
247 our societies. The opportunities these technologies bring must be used to
248 strengthen democratic participation. Online pseudonymity must be protected as
249 this is key for people to express their political or personal opinions without
250 fear and without risking negative consequences.

251 The digital sphere is not a lawless space. Private companies that are active in
252 the digital sphere must be regulated and pay their fair share of taxes.
253 Discrimination and hate speech in the digital sphere must be recognised as
254 problematic, and combatted. This includes developments in the realm of
255 artificial intelligence*, which has the potential to transform our societies for
256 the better but also risks reinforcing existing discrimination through biased
257 algorithms. More attention should be paid to the negative consequences of
258 automated decision-making. Automated decision-making that can lead to
259 discrimination and ethnic profiling should be regularly tested and adapted to
260 counter this.

261 The spread of disinformation and fake news has the potential to undermine our
262 democracies and must be dealt with accordingly by effective legislation and
263 training. This includes protection against foreign interference in democratic
264 processes and the fight against terrorism. The pursuit of these goals must never
265 be used as an excuse to pass legislation that restricts the freedom of
266 expression, freedom of assembly, or other fundamental rights. We oppose the use
267 of upload filters*.

PP2-Inew FYEG Political Platform - Introduction + A Diverse and Feminist Europe

Proposer: FYEG Political Platform Committee
Agenda item: 2 New FYEG Political Platform

Political Platform text

1 We, the Federation of Young European Greens (FYEG), are the movement of the
2 Green youth at the European level. Our individual and organisational backgrounds
3 lie in the social and environmental justice movements, in feminist and queer
4 battles, and in the defence of fundamental rights and democracy. For more than
5 30 years, our member organisations have joined forces at the European level,
6 uniting their collective voices and aspirations to learn from each other, to
7 debate, to campaign together, and to make the green Europe we wish to see become
8 a reality.

9 Through our shared struggles and aspirations, we see that not a single one of
10 our political issues is a lone priority. We refuse to choose between the
11 survival and well-being of the planet, our personal liberties and freedoms, and
12 social welfare. To be Green means to fight for all these demands simultaneously.

13 To achieve our goal of a feminist, diverse, democratic, sustainable, and social
14 Europe, we use different channels, political arenas, and tools. The institutions
15 of formal politics are spaces in which many decisions affecting our lives and
16 our politics are made. We work to be present and heard at all stages and levels,
17 and to make clear the urgency of Green politics.

18 FYEG advocates for systemic changes that cannot be achieved through a catalogue
19 of single-issue political measures. They require the dismantling of various
20 systems of oppression and the transformation of society as a whole. Therefore,
21 our fight is not limited to institutions. We are also active at the grassroots
22 level, running campaigns together, supporting local struggles, and empowering
23 changemakers through non-formal education projects.

24 Our work and practices as a movement must be aligned with what we stand for. We
25 must fight against the sexist, racist, ageist, ableist, class-based systems of
26 oppression – also within our own organisations. Only in this way can we build a
27 truly inclusive movement for all.

28 The challenges lie not only in victories within institutional politics, but also
29 in changing the political playing field. The dreams and actions of a small
30 number of committed individuals and movements can bring causes to the centre of
31 the political debate and, by doing so, effect much-needed change.

32 As the Federation of Young European Greens, we agree on the principles laid down
33 in this document, which should serve as a basis for our work across Europe.

34 **1. A Diverse and Feminist Europe**

35 FYEG fights for intersectional* feminism*, a feminism that is anti-racist, anti-
36 fascist, and draws from the queer* and disability rights movements. A feminism
37 that recognises diversity and the different ways in which privilege* and
38 oppression* manifest in society. Our feminism is not just about smashing the
39 patriarchy*, but about smashing all systems of oppression. We are against
40 societies that only feed the dominant power. We push for an alternative model
41 based on justice and equity for those devalued by systems of oppression, one
42 that actively undermines the dominant power.

43 Systems of oppression seek to divide us, control us, and harm everyone in
44 society. We will not let them. We fight any kind of discrimination or hate crime
45 on the basis of real or assumed nationality, race, ethnicity, religion or
46 beliefs, gender and sexual identity, ideology, disability, class, or age. We
47 recognise the difference and diversity among people and societies in Europe, and
48 see this as a richness.

49
50 We advocate for policies created with people who experience discrimination and
51 support affirmative action for underrepresented groups. We demand anti-
52 discrimination laws. Governments must take measures to ensure the safety and
53 health of marginalized groups.

54 As we work for a Europe which is truly welcoming and inclusive for all, we take
55 a twofold approach. First, we work for social justice* and equality *now* – within
56 the limits of the current norms, within the systems that constrain us – while
57 recognising that this can never be social justice for everyone and that, in this
58 way, only small gains are made. Second, we question the systems, we think them
59 anew, in order to break free from the norms and boundaries that constrain us.
60 Systems of oppression are a social construct and can therefore be deconstructed,
61 with the help of collective action and organising. We can imagine and give life
62 to new systems that work for all. We question human-made borders, the
63 arbitrariness of passports and permits, and the dichotomy of binary gender*.

64 **a. Identity and intersectionality**

65 Systems of inequality based on gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation,
66 disability, religion, and class intersect with each other. The solutions we push
67 for must therefore be rooted in an intersectional perspective. When approaching
68 a specific case of oppression, we should not lose sight of the bigger framework
69 in which oppression takes place, as well as other systems of inequality
70 associated with it.

71 When fighting inequality and tackling societal problems, we keep in mind that a
72 person's identity has many facets and oppose approaches which define a group as
73 homogenous and based on a single identity.

74 We understand that all dimensions of a person's identity contribute to a
75 person's access to justice and equality. Inequality can take many forms, ranging
76 from the lack of representation of a specific identity in the public sphere to
77 the criminalisation of identities. Our aspiration is a world in which such
78 inequalities are dismantled, and people can express themselves and their
79 identities freely and without fear.

80 When new policies are proposed at all levels of governance, they should be
81 analysed from an intersectional perspective that ensures no one is left behind.

82 **b. Anti-racism**

83 Today, European societies remain deeply racist. In such a context, it is not
84 enough to simply not be racist – we must be anti-racist. Racism is not only
85 about hate speech and hate crime: it is the systemic discrimination against and
86 oppression of people on the basis of their supposed membership of a particular
87 racial or ethnic group. It includes antiziganism, antisemitism*, and
88 islamophobia*. It is built through the perpetuation of prejudices, as well as
89 the belief that there are different races and that some races are superior to
90 others.

91 European societies are built on the ongoing oppression and discrimination of
92 racialised people*, including Black people, people of colour, Roma and Traveller
93 communities, Muslims, and Jews . Today, racialised people are still second-class
94 citizens in Europe. This oppression is visible in the institutions, on the
95 streets, and in culture. Racialised people face police violence and are
96 discriminated against in all aspects of life, from job opportunities to access
97 to healthcare and housing.

98
99 Race should be understood as a social construct and as a category that is used
100 to discriminate against people of colour and other racialised groups, and not as
101 a biological reality.

102
103 Racism in Europe is, among others, rooted in the colonial and imperialist

104 history of European countries. The ideologies and inequalities that it created
105 are still present today. To properly tackle racism, Europe must face up to its
106 colonial past and recognise the racism present in European history, societies,
107 cultures, and institutions. An appropriate response to this must include
108 monetary reparations for the former colonies of European states, as well as the
109 return of stolen artefacts currently exhibited in European museums.

110 FYEG supports mechanisms to dismantle racism and achieve justice for those who
111 are marginalised by systemic racism. We support the introduction of mechanisms
112 of affirmative action including access to higher education or public jobs.
113 States must fight discrimination in access to healthcare, jobs, justice, and
114 education. To ensure that the next generation is educated about racism,
115 curricula should be designed that cover white privilege, racism, antiziganism,
116 antisemitism, islamophobia, neocolonialism*, Black history, colonial history,
117 and the history of other racialised communities.

118 Even though racism is not an individual phenomenon, individuals must also
119 recognise their own privileges, educate themselves, and join in solidarity with
120 Black people and people of colour, Roma and Traveller communities, Muslims,
121 Jews, and all other racialised communities.

122 More specifically, FYEG strongly believes that addressing racial oppression
123 holds the key to achieving not only social justice but also climate justice and
124 equity. Racialised activists have been at the forefront of justice struggles. In
125 their struggles they are either made invisible by white people or have been
126 disproportionately targeted by state violence. It is essential for our movements
127 to recognise and actively fight against the mechanisms that have resulted in the
128 exclusion and silencing of racialised activists.

129 **c. Disability rights**

130 FYEG supports the rights and fights of disabled people. Disability can refer to
131 physical or intellectual impairments and can include mental and/or chronic
132 health conditions. Ableism* is discrimination or social prejudice against
133 disabled people, such as assuming a disabled person does not have the same
134 capabilities as an able-bodied person to perform certain tasks or roles within
135 society.

136 Being disabled should not limit a person's choices to be present in public
137 spaces, interact with the world around them, and take part in social, political,
138 and cultural activities. FYEG supports the social model of disability, which
139 sees disability as the social barriers that impair people, prevent them from
140 exercising their autonomy, and reduce equality, rather than the person's own
141 impairment.

142 To remove these barriers, FYEG supports a holistic approach to increasing
143 accessibility which puts disabled people at the centre of policy development.
144 Policies must be created by them and for them. FYEG recognises that disability
145 is unique to each individual and their own experience, and that there can be no
146 one-size-fits-all policy or healthcare approach.

147 We believe that sign language should be recognised by all states as a national
148 and official language, and that access to sign language, braille, and other
149 methods of communication should be broadened. FYEG also believes that all
150 barriers should be removed that prevent disabled people from accessing their
151 civil and political rights; these can include physical and social barriers.

152 When it comes to healthcare treatment for disabled people, medical professionals
153 should work on the assumption that individuals are capable of giving consent
154 unless they are informed otherwise. Medical professionals should not proceed
155 with any form of treatment without first seeking the consent of the person
156 receiving the treatment, regardless of their medical condition.

157 **d. Gender**

158 FYEG works towards a world in which people can thrive and know it is safe to be
159 themselves, regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity, gender
160 expression, and sex characteristics.

161 Gender-based violence* is a brutal violation of human rights. It affects people
162 of all social and economic backgrounds across Europe. However, women of colour,
163 women with disabilities, LGBTQIA+* women, migrant women, and poor and working-
164 class women are most likely to be at risk and face the biggest obstacles to
165 getting help.

166 The historical, systemic exclusion of marginalised genders at all levels of
167 political decision-making, from local to European institutions, finally needs to
168 stop. Different mechanisms, including quotas, can help to correct this, and
169 ensure the proportional representation of all gender identities in assemblies at
170 all levels of government in Europe.

171 Our long-term aspiration is a fluid world. We recognise that labels, while
172 helping us to identify how to fight for rights and justice in a system built
173 against us, cannot represent the spectrum of identities and expressions we
174 embody. Our short-term task is to work for LGBTQIA+ rights, to work for sexual
175 and reproductive health and rights* (SRHR), to fight against gender-based
176 violence, and to continue to advocate for gender equality at all levels of
177 society – at home, in the workplace, in politics, etc. We work towards a world
178 in which every person has the right to live freely according to their gender

179 identity and gender expression, and the right to self-determination* and bodily
180 autonomy*.

181 **1. Sexual and reproductive health and rights, combatting**
182 **discrimination and gender-based violence**

183 Sexual and reproductive health and rights should be part of all educational
184 curricula and should be effectively implemented in all schools. The sexual
185 education curriculum should be non-judgemental, sex positive, consent-focused,
186 and comprehensive enough to cover sexual orientation, gender identity, gender
187 expression, and sex characteristics. More funding and research should be
188 allocated to sexual education and reproductive healthcare.

189 We demand free, accessible, good quality, and safe sexual and reproductive
190 healthcare and services for all. Healthcare should be based on human rights,
191 bodily autonomy, and informed consent* for all, especially the most vulnerable
192 groups, such as trans people*, people with disabilities, people without papers,
193 and migrants.

194 Free and accessible sexual and reproductive healthcare should include accessible
195 and free contraception for all, as well as medically-assisted procreation*. Pink
196 tax discrimination* should end. Menstrual products should be cost-free and
197 freely accessible everywhere, including schools, universities, and public
198 toilets. Wherever there is free toilet paper there should be free menstrual
199 products.

200 Each year thousands of people die because of the criminalisation of and lack of
201 access to abortion. Banning abortion only causes greater harm to those who seek
202 it, who then undergo serious health, legal, and financial risks to have an
203 abortion illegally. We condemn all attempts to restrict access to abortion. We
204 advocate for free, accessible, non-judgemental, good quality, safe, legal, and
205 local abortion. The right to abortion must be included in the EU's Charter of
206 Fundamental Rights*.

207 Certain countries require trans people wishing to access legal gender
208 recognition procedures to undergo forced sterilisation. This violates their
209 dignity and right to bodily autonomy and should be banned. Non-consensual
210 surgeries on intersex people* and genital mutilation* should also be outlawed.
211 States must ban all dehumanising practices and offer reparations to all trans
212 and intersex people who have been forced to renounce their bodily autonomy in
213 this way.

214 The stigmatisation of HIV* must end. HIV treatment is highly effective in
215 reducing the transmission of HIV and people with an undetectable viral load
216

217 cannot transmit HIV sexually. More funds should be allocated to education and
218 raising awareness on HIV and HIV prevention, as well as to research and
treatment. HIV treatment should be free and universally accessible.

219 Women and girls (cis and trans) are often exposed to serious forms of physical
220 violence including domestic violence, sexual assault, and rape. We demand the
221 legal definition of rape to respect individual self-determination. Rape is
222 generally defined as sexual intercourse with a person by forcible compulsion;
223 sexual intercourse with a person who is incapable of consent by reason of being
224 physically helpless or mentally incapacitated; or sexual intercourse with an
225 underage person. We demand for it to be defined by lack of consent, not by the
226 threat of violence.

227 All European countries must implement the Istanbul Convention*. The Convention
228 sets out measures to address all forms of violence against women, recognising
229 this violence as a human rights violation and a form of discrimination.
230 Countries need to provide clear and concise information for victims in a
231 language they understand, accessible and inclusive shelters, and telephone
232 hotlines.

233 We acknowledge the gender-based discrimination of women in the labour market. We
234 therefore demand equal pay for equally valuable work and an end to
235 discrimination based on pregnancy and parenthood.

236 **2. LGBTQIA+ rights**

237 Lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, intersex, and asexual rights are still
238 under attack in our patriarchal, capitalist system. Even today, conservative
239 governments are trying to take away the hard-earned freedoms and rights of
240 LGBTQIA+ people. Homophobia* and transphobia* can fuel hate speech and hate
241 crime and should be criminalised.

242 Every person should have the right to live according to their sexual
243 orientation, gender identity, and gender expression freely and without fear. So-
244 called "conversion therapy"* is dehumanising and should be banned. The
245 relationships of same- and opposite-sex couples and their families should enjoy
246 equal recognition. Same-sex couples have a right to family life. This includes
247 the right for all people with a uterus to have access to medically assisted
248 procreation*, regardless of their sexual orientation or relationship status.
249 Marriages and civil unions should be open to all couples, and those recognised
250 in one European country should also be fully recognised in all others.

251 Trans women are women, trans men are men, non-binary is valid, and trans rights
252 are human rights. Mandatory mental health assessments violate trans people's
253

254 dignity and right to self-determination and should be banned. We demand legal
255 gender recognition procedures and the right to change names in an auto-
256 declarative and unconditional manner. These procedures should be quick,
257 transparent, accessible, free, based solely on individual self-determination,
258 and without age restrictions. Additionally, we call for the removal of all sex
markers in identity documents, including passports.

259 **e. Religion**

260 Pluralistic societies* depend on enabling a safe space in which each person is
261 free to believe or not believe, practise their beliefs, observe their beliefs,
262 and organise for their beliefs. We fight against islamophobia* and
263 antisemitism*, and condemn any kind of discrimination and hate speech against
264 people based on their religion. We believe in a pluralistic society built on
265 dialogue. The right to religious freedom and the right to practise religion
266 freely must be protected under national and European law. We oppose the idea
267 that religion is by nature a divisive issue and a source of tensions, and that
268 people should hide their religious beliefs or feel ashamed of them.

269 We stand for a secular state* in which there is a separation between religion
270 and government, and where religious laws are not considered to be above or
271 outside civil law. We believe states should not give preferential treatment to
272 certain religions as this creates a discriminatory system. Workers should have
273 the right to celebrate the holidays of their own religion without facing
274 discrimination or penalisation. The wearing of religious symbols should not be
275 used as a reason to exclude people from education, work, public services, or
276 public spaces.

277 **f. Cultural rights**

278 FYEG stands for cultural rights. We defend the right of individuals and
279 communities, including national minorities, to practise and preserve their
280 cultures, including their languages, religions, art forms, and ways of life. We
281 support the implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority
282 Languages by all European states*.

283 Europe and the European Union must provide support and offer asylum to those
284 whose cultural rights are being violated elsewhere.

PP2-Inew FYEG Political Platform - Introduction + A Diverse and Feminist Europe

Proposers:

Agenda item: 2 New FYEG Political Platform

Political Platform text

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20 systems of oppression and the transformation of society as a whole. Therefore,
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22 level, running campaigns together, supporting local struggles, and empowering
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55 a twofold approach. First, we work for social justice* and equality *now* – within
56 the limits of the current norms, within the systems that constrain us – while
57 recognising that this can never be social justice for everyone and that, in this
58 way, only small gains are made. Second, we question the systems, we think them
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61 with the help of collective action and organising. We can imagine and give life
62 to new systems that work for all. We question human-made borders, the
63 arbitrariness of passports and permits, and the dichotomy of binary gender*.

64 **a. Diversity and Intersectionality**

65 Global systems of patriarchy, capitalism, colonialism and racism, and their
66 byproducts, ableism, cis- and hetero-sexism* and colourism*, among others,
67 intersect to create overlapping and mutually reinforcing layers of oppression
68 and inequality. The solutions we push for must therefore be rooted in an
69 intersectional perspective. When approaching a specific case of oppression, we
70 should not lose sight of the bigger framework in which oppression takes place,
71 as well as other systems of inequality associated with it.

72 When fighting inequality and tackling societal problems, we keep in mind that a
73 person's identity has many facets and oppose approaches which define a group as
74 homogenous and based on a single identity.

75 We understand that all dimensions of a person's identity contribute to a
76 person's access to justice and equality. Inequality can take many forms, ranging
77 from the lack of representation of a specific identity in the public sphere to
78 the criminalisation of identities. Our aspiration is a world in which such
79 inequalities are dismantled, and people can express themselves and their
80 identities freely and without fear.

81 When new policies are proposed at all levels of governance, they should be
82 analysed from an intersectional perspective , taking into account the
83 individual, systemic, institutional and historical dimensions of inequality to
84 ensure that no one is left behind.

85 **b. Anti-racism**

86 Today, European societies remain deeply racist. In such a context, it is not
87 enough to simply not be racist – we must be anti-racist. Racism is not only
88 about hate speech and hate crime: it is the systemic discrimination against and
89 oppression of people on the basis of their supposed membership of a particular
90 racial or ethnic group. It includes antiziganism, antisemitism*, and
91 islamophobia*. It is built through the perpetuation of prejudices, as well as
92 the belief that there are different races and that some races are superior to
93 others. In the case of antisemitism, this 'belief' has evolved into a world-
94 explaining conspiracy ideology which sees all evil in Jews and their destruction
95 as the liberation from evil. Antisemitism is a continual presence in society in
96 its entirety and antisemitic attitudes can be found across all groups of
97 society. We must always fight antisemitism in all its forms and appearances,
98 including in an anti-racist context.

99 European societies are built on the ongoing oppression and discrimination of
100 racialised people*, including Black people, people of colour, Roma and Traveller
101 communities, Indigenous peoples, Muslims, and Jews . Today, racialised people
102 are still second-class citizens in Europe. This oppression is visible in the
103 institutions, on the streets, and in culture. Racialised people face police

104 violence and are discriminated against in all aspects of life, from job
105 opportunities to access to healthcare and housing. Hate and discrimination with
106 respect to religions and religious individuals and groups also forms an
107 important part in analysing certain social phenomena, including hate crimes,
108 discriminatory acts and anti-religious sentiments, in an anti-racist context.
109 Though they are not related to race and/or ethnicity, they still intersect with
110 other parts of one's identity and are also being unjustly conflated with the
111 race and/or ethnicity. (See Religion).

112
113 Race should be understood as a social construct and as a category that is used
114 to discriminate against people of colour and other racialised groups, and not as
115 a biological reality.

116
117 Racism in Europe is, among others, rooted in the colonial and imperialist
118 history of European countries. The ideologies and inequalities that it created
119 are still present today. To properly tackle racism, Europe must face up to its
120 colonial past and recognise the racism present in European history, societies,
121 cultures, and institutions. An appropriate response to this must include
122 monetary reparations for the former colonies of European states, as well as the
123 return of stolen artefacts currently exhibited and kept in European museums. The
124 colonial art restitution debate is a necessity and key contribution to the
125 decolonization of these relationships.

126 As racism is a structural and systemic problem, public and private institutions
127 must review and change their structures and processes. FYEG supports mechanisms
128 to dismantle racism and achieve justice for those who are marginalised by
129 systemic racism. We support the introduction of mechanisms of affirmative action
130 including access to higher education or public jobs. States must fight
131 discrimination in access to healthcare, jobs, justice, and education. To ensure
132 that the population and in particular the next generation is educated about
133 racism, curricula should be designed that cover different forms and appearances
134 of racism, its history, systemic and structural causes and who has benefitted
135 from this.

136
137 Equipped with this knowledge and tools to reflect their situation and
138 circumstances of living, individuals have to recognise their own privileges,
139 educate themselves, and join in solidarity with people and communities affected
140 by racism.

141 More specifically, FYEG strongly believes that addressing racial oppression
142 holds the key to achieving not only social justice but also climate justice and
143 equity. Racialised activists have been at the forefront of justice struggles. In
144 their struggles they are either made invisible by white people or have been
145 disproportionately targeted by state violence. It is essential for our movements
146 to recognise and actively fight against the mechanisms that have resulted in the
147 exclusion and silencing of racialised activists.

148 **c. Disability rights**

149 FYEG supports the rights and fights of disabled people. Disability can refer to
150 physical or intellectual impairments and can include mental and/or chronic
151 health conditions. Ableism* is discrimination or social prejudice against
152 disabled people, such as assuming a disabled person does not have the same
153 capabilities as an able-bodied person to perform certain tasks or roles within
154 society.

155 Being disabled should not limit a person's choices to be present in public
156 spaces, interact with the world around them, and take part in social, political,
157 and cultural activities. FYEG supports the social model of disability, which
158 sees that social environments exclude and impair people, prevent them from
159 exercising their autonomy, and reduce equality, rather than the person's own
160 impairment.

161 To remove these barriers, FYEG supports a holistic approach to increasing
162 accessibility which puts disabled people at the centre of policy development.
163 Policies must be created by them and for them. FYEG recognises that disability
164 is unique to each individual and their own experience, and that there can be no
165 one-size-fits-all policy or healthcare approach.

166 We believe that sign language should be recognised by all states as an official
167 language, and that access to sign language, braille, and other methods of
168 communication should be broadened. FYEG also believes that all barriers should
169 be removed that prevent disabled people from accessing their civil and political
170 rights; these can include physical and social barriers.

171 When it comes to healthcare treatment for disabled people, medical professionals
172 should work on the assumption that individuals are capable of giving consent
173 unless they are informed otherwise. Medical professionals should not proceed
174 with any form of treatment without first seeking the consent of the person
175 receiving the treatment.

176 **d. Gender**

177 FYEG works towards a world in which people can thrive and know it is safe to be
178 themselves, regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity, gender
179 expression, and sex characteristics.

180 Gender-based violence* is a brutal violation of human rights. It affects people
181 of all social and economic backgrounds across Europe. Women of colour, women
182 with disabilities, LGBTQIA+* women, migrant women, and poor and working-class
183 women are most likely to be at risk and face the biggest obstacles to getting

184 help.

185 The historical, systemic exclusion of marginalised genders at all levels of
186 political decision-making, from local to European institutions, finally needs to
187 stop. Different mechanisms, including quotas, can help to correct this, and
188 ensure the proportional representation of all gender identities in assemblies at
189 all levels of government in Europe.

190 Our long-term aspiration is a fluid world. We recognise that labels, while
191 helping us to identify how to fight for rights and justice in a system built
192 against us, cannot represent the spectrum of identities and expressions we
193 embody. Our short-term task is to work for LGBTQIA+ rights, to work for sexual
194 and reproductive health and rights* (SRHR), to fight against gender-based
195 violence, and to continue to advocate for gender equality at all levels of
196 society – at home, in the workplace, in politics, etc. We work towards a world
197 in which every person has the right to live freely according to their gender
198 identity and gender expression, and the right to self-determination* and bodily
199 autonomy*.

200 **1. Sexual and reproductive health and rights, combatting**
201 **discrimination and gender-based violence**

202 Sexual and reproductive health and rights should be part of all educational
203 curricula and should be effectively implemented in all schools. The sexual
204 education curriculum should be non-judgemental, sex positive, consent-focused,
205 and comprehensive enough to cover sexual orientation, gender identity, gender
206 expression, and sex characteristics. More funding and research should be
207 allocated to sexual education and reproductive healthcare.

208 We demand free, accessible, good quality, and safe sexual and reproductive
209 healthcare and services for all. Healthcare should be based on human rights,
210 bodily autonomy, and informed consent* for all, especially the most vulnerable
211 groups, such as trans people*, people with disabilities, people without papers,
212 and migrants. Additionally, there must be appropriate funding for gender
213 specific medical research since women, trans* and gender non-conforming persons
214 usually don't exist in medical research at all or only as pathologised objects.
215 This must change.

216 Free and accessible sexual and reproductive healthcare should include accessible
217 and free contraception for all, as well as medically-assisted procreation*.
218 There will also be more money for research into new forms of contraception, such
219 as the male pill. Pink tax discrimination* should end. Menstrual products should
220 be cost-free and freely accessible everywhere, including schools, universities,
221 and public toilets. Wherever there is free toilet paper there should be free
222 menstrual products. Gender-neutral toilets will be realized in all publicly

223 accessible buildings and for employees. In large buildings, there will be at
224 least one toilet on each floor that is accessible to everyone. Toilet shortages
225 shouldn't be a problem for anyone.

226 Each year thousands of people die because of the criminalisation of and lack of
227 access to abortion. Banning abortion only causes greater harm to those who seek
228 it, who then undergo serious health, legal, and financial risks to have an
229 abortion illegally. We condemn all attempts to restrict access to abortion. We
230 advocate for free, accessible, non-judgemental, good quality, safe, legal, and
231 local abortion. The right to abortion must be included in the EU's Charter of
232 Fundamental Rights*.

233 Certain countries require trans people wishing to access legal gender
234 recognition procedures to undergo forced sterilisation. This violates their
235 dignity and right to bodily autonomy and must be banned. Non-consensual
236 surgeries on intersex people* should also be outlawed. States must ban all
237 dehumanising practices and offer reparations to all trans and intersex people
238 who have been forced to renounce their bodily autonomy in this way.

239 The stigmatisation of HIV* must end. HIV treatment is highly effective in
240 reducing the transmission of HIV and people with an undetectable viral load
241 cannot transmit HIV . Legal discrimination against people with HIV must stop.
242 More funds should be allocated to education and raising awareness on HIV and HIV
243 prevention, as well as to research and treatment. HIV treatment HIV prevention,
244 and testing for HIV should be free and universally accessible.

245 Women and girls (cis and trans) are often exposed to serious forms of physical
246 violence including domestic violence, sexual assault, and rape. We demand the
247 legal definition of rape to respect individual self-determination. Today, rape
248 is generally defined as sexual intercourse with a person by forcible compulsion;
249 sexual intercourse with a person who is incapable of consent by reason of being
250 physically helpless or mentally incapacitated; or sexual intercourse with an
251 underage person. We demand for it to be defined by lack of consent, not by the
252 threat of violence.

253 All European countries must implement the Istanbul Convention*. The Convention
254 sets out measures to address all forms of violence against women, recognising
255 this violence as a human rights violation and a form of discrimination.
256 Countries need to provide clear and concise information for victims in a
257 language they understand, accessible and inclusive shelters, and telephone
258 hotlines.

259 We acknowledge the gender-based discrimination of women in the labour market,
260 including the underpayment of historically female-dominated occupations. We
261 therefore demand equal pay for equally valuable work and an end to

262 discrimination based on pregnancy and parenthood.

263 **2. LGBTQIA+ rights**

264 Lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, intersex, and asexual rights are still
265 under attack in our patriarchal, capitalist system. Even today, conservative
266 governments are trying to take away the hard-earned freedoms and rights of
267 LGBTQIA+ people. Homophobia* and transphobia* can fuel hate speech and hate
268 crime and should be criminalised.

269 Every person should have the right to live according to their sexual
270 orientation, gender identity, and gender expression freely and without fear. So-
271 called "conversion therapy"* is dehumanising and must be banned and prosecuted
272 immediately. The relationships of same- and opposite-sex couples and their
273 families should enjoy equal recognition. All couples have a right to family
274 life. This includes the right to adoption and foster care, the right for all
275 people with a uterus to have access to medically assisted procreation*, and the
276 right of equal access to sperm donation, regardless of their sexual orientation,
277 health or relationship status. IVF treatments should be equally reimbursable to
278 all couples. Marriages and civil unions must be open to all couples, and those
279 recognised in one European country must also be and automatically fully
280 recognised in all others.

281 Trans women are women, trans men are men, being non-binary is valid, and trans
282 rights are human rights. Mandatory mental health assessments violate trans
283 people's dignity and right to self-determination and should be banned. We demand
284 legal gender recognition procedures for all genders and none, and the right to
285 change names in an auto-declarative and unconditional manner. These procedures
286 should be quick, transparent, accessible, free, based solely on individual self-
287 determination, and without age restrictions. Additionally, we call for the
288 removal of all sex markers in identity documents, including passports.

289 **e. Religion**

290 Pluralistic societies* depend on enabling a safe space in which each person is
291 free to believe or not believe, practise their beliefs, observe their beliefs,
292 and organise for their beliefs. We fight against islamophobia* and
293 antisemitism*, and condemn any kind of discrimination and hate speech against
294 people based on their religion. We believe in a pluralistic society built on
295 dialogue. The right to religious freedom and the right to practise religion
296 freely must be protected under national and European law. We oppose the idea
297 that religion is by nature a divisive issue and a source of tensions, and that
298 people should hide their religious beliefs or feel ashamed of them.

299 We stand for a secular state* in which there is a separation between religion
300 and government, and where religious laws are not considered to be above or
301 outside civil law. We believe states should not give preferential treatment to
302 any religion or religious persons and organisations over other citizens and
303 charities as this creates a discriminatory system. Workers should have the right
304 to celebrate the holidays of their own religion without facing discrimination or
305 penalisation. The wearing of religious symbols should not be used as a reason to
306 exclude people from education, work, public services, or public spaces.

307 **f. Cultural and Indigenous Rights**

308 FYEG stands for cultural rights. The colonial, discriminatory and
309 assimilationist policies in European countries have left national minorities
310 heavily marginalised and vulnerable. We defend the right of individuals and
311 communities, including national minorities, to practise and preserve their
312 cultures, including their languages, religions, art forms, and ways of life.
313 National minorities must have strong legal protection, sufficient and stable
314 funding and cultural autonomy in support of their efforts to revitalise, retain
315 and develop their languages, cultures and ways of life. We support the
316 implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages by all
317 European states*.

318 Europe and the European Union must provide support and offer asylum to those
319 whose cultural rights are being violated elsewhere.

PP2-IVnew FYEG Political Platform - The Green Economy

Proposers:

Agenda item: 2 New FYEG Political Platform

Political Platform text

4. A Green and Feminist Economy

The Federation of Young European Greens identifies the root causes of the social and environmental crises as lying within the current economic system. We believe that this capitalist system, based on unrestrained competition, consumerism, the exploitation of workers, and profit maximisation* is unsustainable and incompatible with our planet's limited resources and the goal of an economy that benefits all. This system deliberately imposes social and environmental costs on low-income countries, future generations, and other species. It makes all the reproductive and care work invisible, a work mainly accomplished by women. It creates extreme inequalities and excludes most people from decision-making processes concerning how and what is produced and valued in an economy. This is because it relies on some people owning means of production and living by that, while others have to work to make a living. This creates injustices within societies as well as between them: division between rich and poor, global south and global north all root in capitalism. The crises we are facing are the result of the patriarchal, racist and neoliberal capitalist system that is disrupting human well-being and destroying our collective resilience, and which represents an existential threat to humanity.

FYEG sees an urgent need for a new vision of progress that is fit for the century ahead of us. In order to bring an end to environmental destruction and human deprivation, it is crucial to change the way our economies are built and defined. We need to shift from economic growth* to human and planetary well-being and thus create a new economic system. We need to go beyond indicators such as gross domestic product (GDP)* and make issues such as quality of life and environmental well-being centerpiece. We believe the technological shift to a zero-waste industry and economy is not enough. The green and feminist economy we want to build implies a radical change in the democratisation of the economy, the redistribution of wealth, and a just transition. This economy is also feminist, implying that a feminist economy takes equally into account all beings and the environment in its propositions. It makes social protection a priority and values the care work, accomplished mainly by women, for people and the

32 environment.

33 **a. Alternative models to unlimited growth**

34 Economics should not prioritise economic growth, profit, and consumption, but
35 rather human well-being and welfare. The indicators currently used by economists
36 fail to take social and environmental factors into account. We therefore think
37 it is time to develop new indicators which factor in environmental degradation
38 and economic inequality. The genuine progress indicator (GPI)*, for instance,
39 measures overall quality of life rather than just economic progress, and takes
40 into account the needs of individuals and their environment.

41 A market model creates privately owned and monopolised resources while
42 alternative economic models, such as “doughnut economics”*, degrowth*, and the
43 Economy for the Common Good*, provide a system which is sustainable, fair, and
44 just.

45 We need to look at the economy in a new way, dismantling the myth of unlimited
46 growth, putting an end to excessive capital accumulation, and prioritising a
47 redistribution of wealth and production factors. We strive to use the European
48 Green Deal to recover from the current crisis in a sustainable way: to foster a
49 circular economy, economic security and certainty, and gender equality, and to
50 bring about the destruction of the gendered division of labour.
51 Intergenerational and intragenerational equity are also fundamental social
52 values for a green and feminist economy.

53 For governments, economic policies must be guided by the goals of the Paris
54 Climate Agreement and the UN’s 2030 Agenda* for Sustainable Development, not by
55 the pursuit of endless economic growth.

56 **b. Economic structures**

57 The current structure of the economy is a source of injustice, inequality, and
58 environmental destruction. The monopoly some international companies hold
59 prevents the entrance of new actors onto the market. It is more and more
60 difficult for states and citizens to hold companies accountable for their
61 actions. These companies are the gatekeepers for change. FYEG believes that in
62 order to create a more sustainable and fair approach to the economy, our
63 economic system has to change. It must serve human, non-humans, and our
64 ecosystems, not billionaires.

65 It is time to rethink how we do economics.

66 Many economic challenges come from large companies who seek profit at all costs.
67 They undermine workers' rights and environmental standards as well as small
68 local businesses and worker cooperatives. They often avoid paying taxes,
69 compromising the ability of the state to provide public services. We therefore
70 call for the economy to be structured differently. Companies that are considered
71 too big to fail* or hold monopolies must be split up. Small and medium-sized
72 enterprises (SMEs)* should have more opportunities to run their businesses
73 without facing the threat of multinational corporations. Enterprises that serve
74 goals other than maximising profits, who operate simply in order to provide
75 services or create jobs, are a solution.

76 We believe workers themselves can take a more active role in shaping the
77 economy. We demand that businesses be governed by the people that work in them.
78 One important step towards this goal would be the occupation of at least 50% of
79 seats on company boards by employees. Another tool is the cooperative business
80 model* as it helps to democratise the economy and shift the focus to placing
81 people over profit and building a more inclusive economy. Mechanisms should be
82 put in place to make it easier for workers to transform their companies into
83 cooperatives, especially when the original owner is planning to close the
84 company.

85 A green and feminist economy rejects the commodification and privatisation of
86 the commons. Basic human needs and social rights should always be guaranteed and
87 must never depend on markets. This applies especially in the cases of housing,
88 health, education, food, and transport. It is particularly important knowing
89 that the impact of this commodification and privatisation is gender biased.

90 In order to reduce the impact of the economy on the environment, it is also
91 important to deal with the negative impacts of globalisation. While we recognise
92 some of its benefits, it has both social and environmental consequences and
93 favours major companies over small business. We support, where feasible,
94 relocalising* the economy, starting with the production of essential goods such
95 as food and medicine. The goal of economic policy should not be to boost exports
96 at all costs but rather to improve resilience and reduce imports, dependency on
97 single actors, and environmental impacts. More transparent and shorter supply
98 chains that can be more easily surveyed for exploitative and destructive
99 practices should be encouraged. The introduction of not only carbon but also of
100 social border taxes could be one of the ways to encourage the relocalisation of
101 the economy.

102 **c. A sustainable economy**

103 Transforming our economy into a green and feminist economy also means reducing
104 consumption and pollution. The Earth cannot possibly sustain today's levels of
105 consumption. Therefore, challenging consumerism should be at the centre of a

106 just transition.

107 We want to turn the linear economy*, which is based on a “take-make-waste”
108 model, into a fully circular economy*. In a circular economy, products and
109 materials are used over and over again instead of being discarded. We believe we
110 can shift from a linear economy to a circular economy based on the following
111 principles: minimising the usage of energy and resources; preserving value in
112 the economy; preventing waste, toxic materials and pollution; keeping goods and
113 materials in use and in closed loops; ensuring human health; and encouraging the
114 prevention of waste.

115 For consumers to be able to play an active role and change their buying habits,
116 we defend the right to access more detailed, harmonised, and reliable
117 information on the social, environmental, and climate impacts of goods and
118 services over their lifecycle, including durability and repairability*. We also
119 emphasise the need for change in relation to product-related greenwashing* and
120 false environmental claims. We call for regulation encouraging producers the use
121 of non-proprietary standards, designing by the principles of open hardware and a
122 loss of patents and duty to publicise constructions and building plans when
123 spare parts are no more produced. In order to ease repairability of goods
124 producers must ensure the availability of spare parts over the entire lifecycle
125 of the product.

126 Today, most items and packaging are meant to be used once and discarded. This
127 creates vast quantities of pollution and waste materials. As landfills exceed
128 capacity and micro-plastics pollute the whole planet, there is a substantial
129 need for change. We support a move towards a zero-waste society, phasing out
130 single-use plastics and encouraging the development of bulk buying.

131 Consumption is influenced by an ever more visible advertising presence. We
132 support regulation in advertising, including a ban on advertising the most
133 polluting products and behaviours (e.g. car and air travel, meat consumption).
134 We support a ban on targeted advertisement that uses people’s personal data to
135 influence their behaviours. We also think the environmental and visual impact of
136 advertisements should be addressed, for example by limiting the size of
137 advertising billboards in cities, making sure they are not illuminated at night,
138 and banning digital advertising screens..

139 **d. Fiscal policy**

140 Taxation is needed to fund public budgets, maintain quality public services and
141 welfare states, and fund investments needed for a just transition to a zero-
142 carbon economy. We oppose the austerity policies* that have been put in place
143 across Europe. Massive investments into social and urban infrastructure, health
144 systems, education and fighting climate change are needed for the young

145 generation. Young people need decent jobs, health care, free public transport
146 and a liveable planet more than they need a balanced state budget . We demand
147 fair taxation and a stronger fight against fiscal fraud. Taxation can also be a
148 powerful tool in itself, reducing inequalities, redistributing wealth, and
149 contributing to changing behaviours.

150 We defend the introduction of a European common taxation policy in order to
151 fight tax avoidance* and tax havens*, both inside and outside the EU. A baseline
152 20% EU corporate tax* should be introduced to reduce the attractiveness of tax
153 avoidance. Part of that corporate tax should automatically feed into the EU
154 budget.

155 Taxation should be used to reduce inequalities. We support progressive income
156 taxation*, with higher taxation for the richest taxpayers. We also support the
157 introduction of a wealth tax* on millionaires, possibly at the EU level.
158 Finally, we believe a higher taxation on inheritance is key to reducing the
159 transfer of inequalities from one generation to the next.

160 The Federation of Young European Greens also believes that taxation can help
161 support positive behaviours and discourage harmful behaviours, and that over
162 time we should prioritise phasing out taxes on work in favour of taxes on
163 behaviour and wealth. Behavioural taxes such as a carbon tax, the taxation of
164 meat products, the taxation of single-use plastic items, and the taxation of
165 polluting cars, among others, can be powerful tools to encourage change. Those
166 taxes should be implemented fairly to avoid overburdening citizens already
167 living in precarious situations. Their revenue should be redistributed globally
168 and help support a just transition.

169 **e. Financial markets**

170 More than a decade after the global financial crisis, financial markets and
171 banking systems remain dangerous and flawed. Financial markets continue to cause
172 systemic instability and social inequality. Investments continue to flow to
173 unsustainable, carbon-intensive* industries. Banks still ignore the damage their
174 investments are causing to societies and the environment.

175 We need to change finance. We cannot make the transition to a fairer, greener
176 future economy without a global financial system that can allocate capital to
177 where it is needed, drive sustainable investment, and manage risk equitably. The
178 financial system must serve the needs of society, not the other way around. To
179 achieve this, transparency, fairness, and sustainability are key. The taxation
180 of financial transactions* is an important tool to fight short-term and instant
181 transactions. We support its introduction at the EU level.

182 We need a global banking system – and a system of banking regulation* – that
183 responds to today’s needs and prioritises the public good. It needs to encourage
184 productive investments in the local green economies of today and tomorrow,
185 rather than propping up polluting industries or encouraging dangerous
186 speculation. It needs to address inequality, both globally and locally, rather
187 than entrenching it. And it needs to be accountable to society, rather than
188 lawless and deregulated.

189 **f. The digital economy**

190 The digital economy is becoming a central part of the economy. It has the power
191 to change our society – for the better or for the worse. We need to act quickly
192 to ensure that the development of the digital economy is not used to attack our
193 rights and privacy (see chapter 2), or to bypass social regulations as in the
194 case of platform workers* (see chapter 5). We need to make digitalisation an
195 opportunity for our society and ensure that regulations are creating a level
196 playing field* for all actors, as well as improving training on digital jobs.
197 The size and influence of some of the big digital companies raise legitimate
198 concerns. We support dismantling tech giants* and de-monopolising* digital
199 offerings.

200 Europe’s physical communications infrastructure* must be built, owned, operated,
201 and maintained on a non-profit basis as a common resource. This allows faster
202 expansion, with more people gaining access at a lower cost.

203 While digitalisation can be used to tackle climate change, the biodiversity
204 crisis, and pollution, we must not forget that digitalisation itself is not a
205 climate-neutral activity. From web servers, crypto-currencies, and cables to
206 antennas, phones and computers, digitalisation relies on infrastructure that
207 consumes large quantities of energy and therefore contributes to greenhouse gas
208 emissions. It also requires the use of many rare earth elements, the extraction
209 of which causes serious harm to the environment.

210 The premature obsolescence of digital products exacerbates this phenomenon, as
211 well as generating large quantities of electronic waste that is not properly
212 recycled and therefore contributes to water and soil pollution.

213 A lot more needs to be done to ensure the sustainable implementation of
214 digitalisation. We must remember that digitalisation is a tool to achieve our
215 wider goals and not an end in itself.

216 **g. Preparedness and Civil Defence**

217 FYEG sees the need to prevent runaway climate change. However, we also see the

218 need to prepare for the impacts of climate change, and what might happen if we
219 fail to stop it at 1.5 degrees.

220 To ensure that the consequences we will undoubtedly have to deal with as the
221 world warms do not hit those who are less well off, while wealthy groups
222 nationally and internationally can continue to live their lives and consume as
223 normal, all actors in society need to be engaged in stronger and more equitable
224 preparedness - institutions and businesses as much as civil society
225 organisations and individuals. Food and water, healthcare, and general
226 preparedness are three areas where we believe significantly more work needs to
227 be done across Europe.

228 We need to ensure that Europe is agriculturally self-sufficient in order to be
229 sure that when the crisis comes, food does not become something only the wealthy
230 can afford. In the climate of the future, we cannot rely on harvests in other
231 countries to turn out well. Nor is it morally right for a rich country to rely
232 on imports of vital crops when we know that climate change will lead to food
233 shortages, especially in poorer countries. To this end, FYEG believes in an
234 expansion of existing strategic food stockpiles, and an agricultural policy that
235 focuses not only on environmental and climate aspects but also resilience,
236 appropriateness, and security of supply.

237 The same goes for water - there is insufficient knowledge in many European
238 countries of how much ground reserves they have, and many countries rely heavily
239 on just one or two major sources for the majority of their drinking water. To
240 avoid situations where people lose access to drinking water while nearby
241 industries still use water for their operations, there should be clear
242 prioritisation plan developed in each locality for use of limited water
243 supplies, and where feasible backup systems should be developed in case of
244 contamination or interruption of normal water supplies. As greens we believe in
245 human security, and there is no need more human than that for water.

246 Disasters can create supply holdups, and we need to ensure that Europeans can
247 survive while help is on the way. FYEG believes that national governments should
248 develop emergency rationing plans to be prepared for if the worst happens, and
249 require housing associations and households to ensure that they store at least
250 two weeks worth of these durable, basic foodstuffs. This should be combined with
251 a requirement that all newly build structures contain emergency shelters,
252 adapted to local emergency conditions.

253 In addition, it would be optimistic to assume that COVID will be the last
254 pandemic our generation sees. FYEG believes that all countries should be
255 required to hold emergency pandemic and total defence stockpiles, aimed at
256 providing food, medical and protective equipment, and medicine that a population
257 might need in a long global emergency. Humans security, rather than military

258 security, should be our priority.

PP2-VII new FYEG Political Platform - Glossary

Proposers:

Agenda item: 2 New FYEG Political Platform

Political Platform text

Glossary

1. Ableism: Discrimination or prejudice against disabled individuals or people who are perceived to be disabled.

2. Alternative text: A written description of an image to help screen-reading tools explain the image to visually impaired readers.

3. Antimicrobial resistance: A process through which microbes evolve and develop mechanisms that protect them from the effects of antimicrobials such as antibiotics and antifungals. This phenomenon is being accelerated by the massive use of antimicrobials in intensive animal farming.

4. Antisemitism: A certain perception of Jews as a religious, ethnic, or racial group, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews or discrimination against them.

5. Antiziganism: Hostility, prejudice, discrimination, or racism specifically directed at Romani people.

6. Article 7 of the Treaty on European Union: Procedure to suspend certain rights from Member States of the European Union in the event of a breach of EU fundamental values.

7. Artificial intelligence (AI): The ability of a machine to complete tasks which ordinarily require human intelligence.

8. Austerity policies: A set of government-imposed economic policies to reduce budget deficits. Measures can include tax increases and spending cuts.

9. Autocracy: A system of government in which supreme power over a state is

23 concentrated in the hands of one person.

24 10. Banking regulation: Government rules or regulations on how banks and
25 financial institutions should conduct business.

26 11. Bioenergy: Energy produced using biomass or biofuels, including energy from
27 wood or other plants, plant-derived biofuels, and organic waste.

28 12. Bodily autonomy: The right to govern what happens to one's own body.

29 13. Capitalism: An economic system in which the means of production are in
30 private ownership and operated for profit. It is characterised by the
31 accumulation of capital, investments determined by private decision, and the
32 fact that prices and the production and distribution of goods are primarily
33 determined by competition in a free market.

34 14. Carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM): A proposed tax to be imposed on
35 certain goods imported from outside the EU, based on their carbon footprint. The
36 CBAM would reduce emissions and encourage the use of domestically produced
37 goods.

38 15. Carbon capture and storage (CCS): A process which attempts to prevent the
39 release of large quantities of carbon dioxide (CO₂) into the atmosphere from
40 fossil fuel use in power generation and other industries. Waste CO₂ is captured,
41 transported to a storage site, and pumped into underground geologic formations,
42 where it is securely stored away and thus prevented from reaching the
43 atmosphere.

44 16. Carbon neutral economy: An economy that operates without releasing more CO₂
45 than can be absorbed by carbon sinks.

46 17. Carbon sink: Anything that absorbs more CO₂ than it emits. Examples include
47 areas of vegetation (e.g. forests) and phytoplankton-rich seas, which naturally
48 absorb the CO₂ present in the atmosphere.

49 18. Carbon tax: A tax paid by businesses that emit CO₂ in the course of their
50 operations.

51 19. Carbon-intensive industries: Industries that emit high quantities of CO₂ and
52 are responsible for the vast majority of CO₂ emissions.

53 20. Care income: Remuneration received by non-professional carers such as family
54 members for their care work.

- 55 21. Circular economy: In contrast to the linear economy, a circular economy is
56 designed to eliminate waste, promote the continuous use of resources and
57 materials, and use finite resources in a sustainable way.
- 58 22. Citizen-initiated referendum: A referendum that can be initiated by a group
59 of citizens as opposed to referendums that are initiated by government and
60 elected bodies.
- 61 23. Civil disobedience: Active and professed refusal to obey certain laws,
62 governmental demands, or commands. Used as a nonviolent and usually collective
63 means of political action.
- 64 24. Common Agricultural Policy: The agricultural policy of the European Union,
65 introduced in 1962. It now consists of a system of agricultural subsidies as
66 well as other programmes.
- 67 25. Commons: Cultural and natural resources accessible to all members of a
68 society, including natural materials such as air, water, and a habitable earth.
69 These resources are held in common as opposed to being under private ownership.
- 70 26. Comprehensive urban planning: A process that determines community goals and
71 development aspirations as a first step. Areas such as transportation,
72 utilities, land use, recreation, and housing are all considered.
- 73 27. Conversion therapy: The use of any of various methods in an attempt to
74 change a person's sexual orientation to heterosexual, or to change a person's
75 gender identity to correspond to the sex they were assigned at birth. Conversion
76 therapy is not based on scientific evidence and is ineffective and harmful.
- 77 28. Cooperative business model: A membership-based business model in which a
78 group of people with a specific need are willing to work together to found and
79 operate a jointly owned company that will meet that need.
- 80 29. Corporate tax: A tax that companies are required to pay on the profits they
81 make.
- 82 30. Corrida: Bullfight.
- 83 31. Council of the European Union: Decision-making body of the EU made up of
84 ministers of EU Member States. Together with the European Parliament, it amends
85 and approves the legislative proposals of the European Commission.
- 86 32. Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU): The judicial branch of the

87 EU. It ensures that the legislation agreed upon is interpreted and implemented
88 identically across all Member States, and that such implementation is in
89 compliance with that legislation. The CJEU also deals with legal disputes
90 between Member States and the EU institutions and, in certain cases, between
91 businesses, organisations or individuals and the EU institutions.

92 33. Cybersecurity: The application of technologies, processes, and controls to
93 protect systems, networks, programmes, devices, and data from cyberattacks.

94 34. Debt forgiveness: The total cancelation of debt owed by individuals,
95 corporations, or states.

96 35. Degrowth: A concept that critiques a global capitalist system pursuing
97 growth at all costs, causing human exploitation and environmental destruction.
98 It advocates for societies to prioritise social and ecological well-being
99 instead of corporate profits, overproduction, and excess consumption.

100 36. De-monopolise: Break up existing monopolies.

101 37. Dichotomy of binary gender: The classification of gender into two distinct,
102 opposite forms of masculine and feminine, whether by social system or cultural
103 belief.

104 38. Digitalisation: The use of digital technologies to improve business
105 processes. Digitalisation may change business models and provide new revenue and
106 value-producing opportunities. Also the process of moving to a digital business
107 model.

108 39. Dolphinarium: A pool or aquarium for dolphins and other aquatic mammals,
109 allowing them to be on public display.

110 40. Doughnut economics: An economic model which places emphasis on balance
111 between socio-ecological systems and highlights the importance of serving one
112 without excessively damaging the other, remaining within a safe and just space
113 for humanity.

114 41. Dublin system: An EU mechanism that determines which Member State is
115 responsible for the examination of an asylum application submitted by someone
116 seeking international protection within the EU under the Geneva Convention.

117 42. Economic growth: An increase in the production of goods and services,
118 compared from one time period to another.

- 119 43. Economy for Common Good: A social movement advocating for an alternative
120 economic model. It calls for working towards the common good and cooperation as
121 values above profit-orientation and competition.
- 122 44. Electric pulse fishing: A fishing technique sometimes used which uses
123 electric shocks to catch fish.
- 124 45. Energy poverty: The lack of access to modern energy services.
- 125 46. Erasmus: Erasmus+ (formerly known as Erasmus) is a programme to support
126 mobility and cooperation opportunities in higher education, vocational education
127 and training, school education, adult education, youth work and sport. Best
128 known for its university exchange programme.
- 129 47. Erasmus+: See Erasmus.
- 130 48. EU Charter of Fundamental Rights: Legally binding charter that sets out the
131 rights and liberties of everyone in the European Union.
- 132 49. EU minimum wage scheme: Proposed EU directive on the introduction of a
133 minimum wage for workers in the European Union to ensure a decent living.
- 134 50. EU Rights and Values programme: The programme aims to protect the rights and
135 values enshrined in the EU treaties by supporting civil society organisations
136 and encouraging civic and democratic participation.
- 137 51. EU4Health programme: The EU's response to the COVID-19 crisis. The largest
138 ever EU programme within the health sector, EU4Health aims to increase
139 preparedness for cross-border health threats, as well as strengthen health
140 systems across the EU.
- 141 52. European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ECRML): European
142 convention for the protection and promotion of languages used by traditional
143 minorities.
- 144 53. European Commission: The executive branch of the European Union. Responsible
145 for proposing legislation, implementing decisions, upholding the EU treaties,
146 and managing the day-to-day business of the EU.
- 147 54. European Convention on Human Rights: An international convention to protect
148 human rights and political freedoms in Europe, adopted in the framework of the
149 Council of Europe and that is enforced by the European Court of Human Rights..

- 150 55. European Council: EU institution which defines the general political
151 direction and priorities of the European Union. It comprises the heads of state
152 or government of Member States, the Commission president, and the president of
153 the European Council.
- 154 56. European External Action Service (EEAS): The diplomatic service of the EU.
- 155 57. European Parliament: Directly elected EU body that has legislative power,
156 budgetary power, and control over other EU institutions such as the European
157 Commission.
- 158 58. European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO): Independent office responsible
159 for investigating, prosecuting, and bringing to judgment crimes against the EU
160 budget.
- 161 59. Federal Europe: The transformation of the EU from a confederation (union of
162 sovereign states) to a federation with a central government.
- 163 60. Feminism: A range of social movements, political movements, and ideologies
164 that aim to establish gender equality in society.
- 165 61. Fish aggregating devices: An object used to attract fish such as marlin,
166 tuna and dolphins. Widely used in the industrial fishing of tuna, it is accused
167 of increasing the fishing of juveniles, bycatches of sensitive species as well
168 as creating marine litter.
- 169 62. Food security: The ability for all people, at all times, to have physical,
170 social, and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets
171 their food preferences and dietary needs for an active and healthy life.
- 172 63. Food sovereignty: A concept developed by farmers based on the right of
173 people to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically
174 sound and sustainable methods, and the right of communities to control the way
175 food is produced, traded, and consumed. It could create a food system that is
176 designed to help people and the environment rather than to generate profits for
177 multinational corporations.
- 178 64. Force-feeding: A feeding technique used in the production of foie gras. A
179 nutritional substance is given to the goose by means of a small plastic feeding
180 tube passed through the nose or mouth into the stomach. As a result, their
181 livers become massively enlarged.
- 182 65. Fracked gas: Gas obtained through the use of fracking. Fracking is the
183 process of drilling down into the earth before a high-pressure water mixture is

184 directed at the rock to release the gas inside.

185 66. Freedom of movement: The right to travel, work, and live in a country, as
186 well as the unconditional right to leave and re-enter.

187 67. Freedom to stay: The right to remain in the country of one's choosing.

188 68. Frontex: The European Border and Coast Guard Agency. An EU agency, Frontex
189 is responsible for border control of the European Schengen Area, in coordination
190 with the national border and coast guards of Schengen Area Member States.

191 69. Gender-based violence: Harmful acts directed at an individual based on their
192 gender. It is rooted in gender inequality, the abuse of power, and harmful
193 norms.

194 70. Genetically modified organisms (GMOs): Animals, plants, or microbes whose
195 DNA has been altered using genetic engineering techniques.

196 71. Genital mutilation: A procedure that typically includes the total or partial
197 excision of external genitalia. Female genital mutilation (FGM) involves the
198 partial or total removal of external female genitalia or other injury to the
199 female genital organs for non-medical reasons. It is recognised internationally
200 as a violation of the human rights of girls and women.

201 72. Genuine progress indicator (GPI): A national-level indicator that provides
202 information on sustainable economic welfare, rather than just economic activity.
203 GPI has been suggested to replace or supplement GDP.

204 73. Geoengineering (also known as climate engineering): The deliberate
205 manipulation of the Earth's climate to counteract the effects of global warming
206 from greenhouse gas emissions.

207 74. Globalisation: The growing integration and interdependence of the world's
208 economies, cultures, and populations, brought about by cross-border trade in
209 goods and services, technology, and flows of investment, people, and
210 information.

211 75. Greenwashing: A superficial or insincere display of concern for the
212 environment, usually in order to gain business advantage.

213 76. Gross domestic product (GDP): The market value of all the final goods and
214 services produced within the geographic boundaries of a country within a
215 specified time period, normally a year.

- 216 77. Heteronormativity: A discourse which is based on the assumption that
217 heterosexuality is the norm and privileges this over any other form of sexual
218 orientation.
- 219 78. Homophobia: A range of negative attitudes and feelings towards homosexuality
220 or people who identify or are perceived as being lesbian, gay, or bisexual, as
221 well as systemic discrimination against them.
- 222 79. Housing First: An approach to tackling homelessness in which permanent
223 housing is seen as a person's first and primary need and is provided without any
224 preconditions.
- 225 80. Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV): A virus that attacks the immune system.
226 If not treated, HIV can lead to AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome).
- 227 81. Human security: A security concept that redirects focus from the security of
228 states to insecurities in people's daily lives, such as the threat of hunger,
229 disease, crime, environmental degradation, and issues related to the labour
230 market.
- 231 82. Illegal pushbacks: Illegal cross-border expulsions without due process.
- 232 83. Illiberal democracy: A governing system in which, although elections take
233 place, citizens are cut off from knowledge about the activities of those who
234 exercise real power because of the lack of civil liberties.
- 235 84. Illiberalism: See "illiberal democracy":
- 236 85. Imperialism: The policy, practice, or advocacy of extending the power and
237 dominion of a nation, especially by direct territorial acquisitions or by
238 gaining indirect control over the political or economic life of other areas.
- 239 86. Informed consent: Agreement or permission to take a particular course of
240 action granted in full knowledge of the possible effects or results.
- 241 87. International Monetary Fund (IMF): A multilateral institution that lends
242 money to governments with the aim of stabilising currencies and maintaining
243 order in international financial markets.
- 244 88. Intersectionality: A way of understanding how people's overlapping
245 identities impact the way they experience oppression and discrimination.
- 246 89. Intersex people: Intersex is an umbrella term for differences in sex traits

247 or reproductive anatomy. Intersex people are born with these differences or
248 develop them in childhood. There are many possible variations in genitalia,
249 hormones, internal anatomy, and chromosome patterns.

250 90. Islamophobia: A range of negative attitudes and feelings towards people who
251 practise Islam or are perceived as Muslims, as well as systemic discrimination
252 against them.

253 91. Istanbul Convention: The Council of Europe Convention on preventing and
254 combating violence against women and domestic violence. A legally binding treaty
255 aiming to put an end to violence against women and domestic violence.

256 92. Just transition: A framework developed to encompass a range of social
257 interventions needed to secure workers' rights and livelihoods when economies
258 are shifting to sustainable production, primarily combating climate change and
259 protecting biodiversity.

260 93. Kerosene: A clear flammable liquid primarily obtained from petroleum,
261 commonly used as a fuel for jet engines.

262 94. Legalisation of drugs: Drug production and commercialisation is legal under
263 specific conditions that are controlled by the government.

264 95. Lethal Autonomous Weapons (LAWs): A type of autonomous military system that
265 can independently search for and engage targets based on programmed constraints
266 and descriptions.

267 96. Level playing field: A state in which conditions in a competition or
268 situation are fair for everyone.

269 97. LGBTQIA+: An initialism that stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans,
270 queer, intersex, and asexual, as well as other gender, sexual, or romantic
271 minorities.

272 98. Linear economy: An economic model based on the assumption of a constant
273 supply of raw materials, resulting in a "take-make-dispose" mentality.

274 99. Mass data retention: The collection and storage of data on individuals and
275 their online behaviour by governments and businesses .

276 100. Medically assisted procreation (MAP): A generic term for any of a range of
277 techniques that manipulate an egg and/or sperm to bring about fertilisation.

- 278 101. Metadata: Data that provides information about other data.
- 279 102. Militarism: The belief that a country should maintain a strong military
280 capability and be prepared to use it aggressively to defend or promote national
281 interests.
- 282 103. Monopoly: A company, person or state that has (near) complete control over
283 the supply of or trade in a commodity or service, meaning that it is impossible
284 for others to become involved in it.
- 285 104. Multilateralism: In international relations, multilateralism refers to an
286 alliance of multiple countries pursuing a common goal.
- 287 105. Neocolonialism: The use of economic, political, cultural, or other
288 pressures to control or influence other countries, especially formerly colonised
289 ones.
- 290 106. Neoliberalism: A political and economical ideology, associated with
291 economic liberalism and free-market capitalism. It supports privatization,
292 deregulation, free trade, austerity and reductions in government spending.
- 293 107. Net neutrality: The principle that internet service providers (ISPs) should
294 treat all data equally. According to this principle, ISPs may not intentionally
295 prioritise certain types of online traffic and block or meter others.
- 296 108. Nuclear energy: EEnergy that is produced from nuclear reactions.
- 297 109. Nuclear fusion: A process in which two or more atoms are combined to form
298 one or more atomic nuclei and subatomic particles, producing energy. Research is
299 being funded into the use of this energy in electricity production, for example
300 through the ITER programme.
- 301 110. Open source-based platforms: Software that is publicly licensed and
302 designed with available source code, granting users the right to use, copy,
303 study, change, and improve its structure or design.
- 304 111. Oppression: Unjust or cruel exercise of authority or power.
- 305 112. Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD): An
306 international organisation with the mandate to stimulate economic progress and
307 world trade.
- 308 113. Own resources: The EU's main sources of revenue comprising duties and

309 levies, value added tax, and national contributions.

310 114. Palliative care: Medical and related care provided to a seriously ill
311 patient to manage symptoms, relieve pain and discomfort, improve quality of
312 life, and meet the emotional, social, and spiritual needs of the patient.

313 115. Paperless person: A person who does not have any proof of their legal
314 identity or status.

315 116. Parental leave: Time off from employment granted to parents to care for a
316 child following its birth or adoption. Employers are required to hold employees'
317 jobs for the duration of the leave period. Parental leave is sometimes unpaid.
318 FYEG supports fully paid parental leave.

319 117. Paris Agreement: A legally binding international treaty on climate change
320 mitigation, adaptation, and finance, signed in 2016. Its primary goal is to
321 limit the global average temperature rise to well below 2 degrees Celsius above
322 pre-industrial levels, in addition to pursuing efforts to limit the increase to
323 1.5 degrees.

324 118. Parliamentary system: A democratic system of governance in which the
325 executive has the direct or indirect support of a democratically elected
326 parliament, and is held accountable to that parliament.

327 119. Participatory budgeting: A process of democratic deliberation and decision-
328 making in which citizens decide how to allocate part of a municipal or public
329 budget.

330 120. Patriarchy: A social system in which men hold primary power.

331 121. Pesticide: A chemical substance or biological agent used to deter,
332 incapacitate, or kill certain insects, mammals, wild plants, and other unwanted
333 organisms.

334 122. Physical communications infrastructure: The network of interconnected
335 resources (cables, switches, towers, antennae, etc.) upon which broadcasting,
336 telecommunication, and internet services are operated.

337 123. Pink tax: The tendency for products marketed specifically toward women to
338 be more expensive than those marketed for men.

339 124. Platform workers: Workers that are put in contact with customers through
340 online and are paid for each completed task rather than employed through regular

341 work contracts with social protections.

342 125. Pluralistic society: A society in which members of diverse ethnic, racial,
343 religious, and social groups are able to maintain and develop their unique
344 cultural identities, with the acceptance of the dominant culture, provided these
345 are consistent with the laws and values of wider society.

346 126. Poverty line: The minimum level of personal or family income deemed
347 adequate in a particular country, below which one is classified as poor
348 according to governmental standards.

349 127. Presidential system: A system of government in which the president is
350 constitutionally independent of the legislature and holds most executive power.

351 128. Privilege: Special status or advantages conferred on certain groups at the
352 expense of other groups.

353 129. Productivism: The theory that increasing productivity is the primary goal
354 of socio-economic activity.

355 130. Profit maximisation: The process by which a firm determines the price,
356 input, and output level that returns the greatest profit.

357 131. Progressive taxation: A tax system based on the taxpayer's ability to pay.
358 Low-income earners pay a lower rate of tax than those with higher incomes.

359 132. Proportional representation: An electoral system in which the number of
360 seats held by a political group or party within a legislative body is
361 proportional to the number of votes received.

362 133. Public housing: Low-rent housing owned, sponsored, or administered by the
363 state.

364 134. Qualified majority: One of the voting systems used by the Council of the
365 European Union to take decisions (the others being simple majority and unanimous
366 vote). The usual qualified majority is reached when 55% of Member States
367 representing at least 65% of the total EU population vote in favour. In special
368 cases, the figure rises to 72% of Member States representing at least 65% of the
369 EU population.

370 135. Queer: An umbrella term for gender, sexual and romantic minorities who are
371 not heterosexual, heteronormative, or gender-binary.

- 372 136. Quota (diversity and inclusion): A policy requiring a certain number or
373 share of minority group members or women on boards, shortlists, etc., in order
374 to make institutions and businesses more representative.
- 375 137. Racialised people: Individuals who have been ascribed a racial identity for
376 the purpose of continued domination, discrimination, and social exclusion.
- 377 138. Racism: The systemic discrimination and oppression of people on the basis
378 of their supposed membership of particular racial or ethnic groups, built
379 through the perpetuation of prejudices and the belief that there are different
380 races, some of which are superior to others.
- 381 139. Relocalising the economy: Establishing a network of small businesses in the
382 local area to fulfil basic needs rather than relying on national or global
383 corporate monopolies.
- 384 140. Repairability: The extent to which an object is able to be repaired.
- 385 141. Representative recall: A process through which voters can remove elected
386 officials before their official terms have ended.
- 387 142. Right to be forgotten: The right of an individual to have private
388 information on them deleted so that third persons can no longer trace them.
- 389 143. Right to challenge: An option offered in some countries allowing citizens
390 to call for a referendum challenging a decision taken by the parliament or the
391 government.
- 392 144. Right to disconnect: The right to digitally disconnect from work without
393 facing negative repercussions.
- 394 145. Right to self-determination: The right for people, based on respect for the
395 principle of equal rights and fair equality of opportunity, to freely choose
396 their sovereignty and international political status with no interference.
- 397 146. Rule of law: The principle that all persons, institutions, and entities are
398 subject to the law, including lawmakers, law enforcement officials, and judges.
- 399 147. Rule of law mechanism: Preventive tool to promote the rule of law and
400 provide options in the event of breaches by Member States, for example the
401 suspension of EU funding.
- 402 148. Schengen Area: An area in which all member countries have agreed to abolish

403 controls at internal borders and create a single external border.

404 149. Secrecy of correspondence: A fundamental legal principle guaranteeing that
405 sealed correspondence will not be opened and the content will not be revealed to
406 anyone but the addressee.

407 150. Secular state: A state that is neutral in matters of religion.

408 151. Sixth mass extinction: An ongoing mass extinction event of wildlife on
409 Earth as a result of human activity, in particular over the last century.

410 152. Social justice: The objective of social justice is to create a fair and
411 equal society in which each individual matters, their rights are recognised and
412 protected and in which wealth is fairly distributed.

413 153. Social stratification: The hierarchical structures of class and status in
414 any society.

415 154. Speculation (financial): Investment, in particular on the housing market,
416 involving high financial risk but also the possibility of significant gain.

417 155. Subsidiarity principle: A principle according to which social and political
418 issues should be dealt with at the most immediate (or local) level that is
419 consistent with their resolution.

420 156. Targeted advertising: Internet advertising that delivers customised adverts
421 to consumers based on their behaviour on the internet.

422 157. Tax avoidance: The arrangement of one's financial affairs to minimise tax
423 liability within the law.

424 158. Tax haven: A country or place which offers foreign individuals and
425 companies very low tax rates. People choose to live there or register companies
426 there to avoid paying higher tax in their own countries.

427 159. Taxation of financial transactions: A tax that is applied to all financial
428 transactions, just as tax is paid on all other transactions, services, and
429 goods.

430 160. Tech giants: The largest and most dominant companies in the information
431 technology industry.

432 161. Too big to fail: Companies and business, particularly banks, that are so

433 interconnected and so large that their failure would have a serious impact on
434 the economic system, and that therefore require rescuing by governments in the
435 event of potential failure.

436 162. Trade union: An organisation formed primarily by workers in order to
437 represent their rights and interests to their employers.

438 163. Trans people: People who have a gender identity or gender expression that
439 differs from the sex that they were assigned at birth. People whose gender
440 identity matches the sex that they were assigned at birth are referred to as
441 cisgender or cis people.

442 164. Transphobia: A range of negative attitudes and feelings towards transgender
443 people, as well as the systemic discrimination against them.

444 165. Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons: An international agreement to
445 comprehensively prohibit nuclear weapons with the ultimate goal being their
446 total elimination.

447 166. Trickle-down theory: A theory according to which financial benefits given
448 to large businesses and the wealthy will in turn trickle down to smaller
449 businesses and consumers.

450 167. Two degrees Celsius compared to pre-industrial levels: One of the
451 objectives of the Paris Agreement is to keep a global temperature rise well
452 below this level. Global temperature rises are usually calculated compared to
453 "pre-industrial levels", meaning before the unusual rise in global temperature
454 observed since the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

455 168. UN 2030 Agenda: A resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly which
456 focuses on achieving 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which aim to end
457 poverty and hunger, combat inequalities, and create a peaceful, just,
458 sustainable, and inclusive society.

459 169. UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural
460 Areas: Declaration adopted in 2018 by the UN General Assembly which recognises
461 the rights of farmers and people living in rural areas. These include the right
462 to nature, seeds, land, water, biodiversity, health, education, and housing, as
463 well as labour rights and cultural rights.

464 170. UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC): An international treaty
465 signed in 1992 which sets a framework to address climate change at a global
466 level. Regular international negotiations have been organised under the aegis of
467 the treaty which led to the adoption, among others, of the Tokyo Protocol and

468 the Paris Agreement.

469 171. UN Security Council: One of the six principal organs of the UN system, the
470 UN Security Council is responsible for maintaining peace and security. Its
471 resolutions are legally binding.

472 172. Unanimity: The agreement of all.

473 173. Unconscious bias: An attitude or stereotype that an individual
474 unconsciously associates with another person or group of people.

475 174. Unemployment benefit: A payment made at regular intervals to an unemployed
476 person.

477 175. Unilateralism: An approach in which a country decides on a policy or course
478 of action on its own, without regard to the interests of other states, outside
479 agreement or support, or reciprocity.

480 176. Universal basic income (UBI): A periodic payment provided to all on an
481 individual basis, without means testing or work requirements.

482 177. Upload filters: Automated decision-making tools that scan files uploaded to
483 a particular platform in order to determine if these violate the platform's
484 guidelines and rules.

485 178. Uranium: A chemical element widely used in nuclear power plants and nuclear
486 weapons

487 179. Vocational colleges: Post-secondary educational establishments that offer
488 teaching and practical experience in skilled trades.

489 180. Waste heat recovery: The use of the surplus heat produced by processes
490 whose main aim is not heat production.

491 181. Wealth tax: A tax based on the value of the assets owned by a taxpayer.

492 182. White privilege: The societal privilege that benefits white people over
493 non-white people in some societies.

494 183. World Bank: A multilateral financial institution that lends money to
495 governments and government agencies for development projects.

496 184. Xenophobia: A range of negative attitudes and feelings towards foreigners
497 or people who are perceived as foreign, as well as systemic discrimination
498 against them.

499 185. Zoonotic diseases: Any infection or disease that is transmitted to humans
500 from animals.

501
502 X, The European Neighbourhood Policy is the structure that governs the EU's
503 relations with states in its immediate neighbourhood.

504

PP2-VInew FYEG Political Platform - Europe in the World

Proposers:

Agenda item: 2 New FYEG Political Platform

Political Platform text

1 6. Europe in the World

2 The current international system has not achieved its promise of ensuring peace,
3 guaranteeing fundamental rights, and reducing global inequalities and poverty.
4 Conflicts are taking place all around the globe. Illiberalism* and autocracy*
5 are on the rise. At the same time, the international organisations and rules
6 that have characterised international cooperation over the last decades are
7 increasingly under attack. The changing geopolitical context (including the
8 withdrawal of the USA from the world stage and the rise of other powers such as
9 China) will have far-reaching consequences for the international system. On top
10 of this, the effects of the climate crisis will contribute to instability. We
11 stand at the beginning of a period of significant volatility.

12 The European Union has tried to establish itself as a global actor over recent
13 years. We believe that it is only together that the European Union Member States
14 have enough weight to tackle complex global challenges effectively. The external
15 action of the European Union must be built on and guided by values. We believe
16 that European foreign policy must uphold human rights, democracy, the rule of
17 law and the respect of international law; preserve and build peace; pursue
18 multilateral* solutions; and fight for effective action at the global level to
19 fight climate change, the biodiversity crisis, and other global environmental
20 and social challenges.

21 a. Multilateralism

22 Challenges such as the climate crisis and the Covid-19 pandemic are global in
23 nature and cannot be overcome by any state alone. In a world that is becoming
24 increasingly connected and complex, international cooperation is the only way
25 forward. At a time when international organisations are being undermined and
26 with certain states pursuing a course of unilateralism*, the European Union, as
27 well as other actors, needs to actively fight for multilateral solutions and the
28 strengthening of international organisations.

29 We oppose a move towards a world characterised by great power competition and
30 the rule of the strongest. It is our responsibility to fight for a fair, rule-
31 based international system that protects those who are more vulnerable and gives
32 them the power to actively shape their futures. We stand for the strengthening
33 of international courts and call for the EU to join the European Convention on
34 Human Rights* in a timely fashion in order for it to be held to account in cases
35 of human rights abuses.

36 The European Union will also advocate for reforms within the International
37 Monetary Fund (IMF)* and the World Bank*. Their decision-making processes must
38 be decoupled from the financial contributions of Member States. These
39 institutions must contribute to a stable and sustainable world economy.
40 Multilateral solutions on global issues such as climate change, biodiversity
41 loss, migration, weapons, and security should be pursued.

42 While being strong supporters of multilateralism, FYEG also believes that it
43 needs to be deeply reformed. The current system is still institutionalising
44 existing power inequalities instead of balancing them. The fact that five of the
45 richest countries in the world, who happen to be among the largest military
46 powers and weapons exporters, hold permanent seats on the UN Security Council*
47 and have the right of veto is neither fair nor sustainable in the long term. In
48 the short term, this system should be reformed by giving permanent seats on the
49 Security Council to more countries, including those who have historically been
50 exploited and hindered in their economic development by colonial powers, and by
51 ending the right of veto. In the long term, the UN should evolve towards a
52 global democracy in which representatives from all countries would be
53 democratically elected.

54 **b. Feminist foreign policy**

55 As FYEG, we stand for the development and implementation of a European feminist
56 foreign policy. Feminist foreign policy is a political framework that is centred
57 around the well-being of marginalised people and invokes processes of self-
58 reflection regarding hierarchical global systems.

59 There is an urgent need for the European Union to reconsider the way it conducts
60 its external actions. Traditionally, foreign policy thinking tends to focus on
61 military force and the security of states. Feminist foreign policy offers us a
62 new, intersectional way to think about foreign policy from the viewpoint of the
63 most vulnerable. It aims to elevate women's and marginalised groups' experiences
64 and agency to scrutinise the destructive forces of patriarchy, neocolonialism,
65 heteronormativity*, capitalism*, racism*, imperialism*, and militarism*.

66 For European states, this means addressing its history of colonialism. Many
67 European states built their wealth on the brutal exploitation of other

68 countries. Colonialism and its aftershocks are affecting countries and the
69 hierarchies in the international system to this day. A European feminist foreign
70 policy must be a decolonial foreign policy. A first step into this direction is
71 debt forgiveness* and reparations for formerly colonised countries. In the
72 longer term, the way the European Union conducts development assistance needs to
73 be rethought and global economic institutions need to be reformed to effectively
74 address the situation of formerly colonised countries.

75 FYEG supports the right to self-determination for peoples. The European Union
76 should promote the right to self-determination for peoples, in adherence to
77 international law and states' territories, and with the prospect of improving
78 the human rights situation and democracy.

79 In terms of peacebuilding, a European feminist foreign policy means that more
80 women and other marginalised groups must be brought to the negotiation table.
81 Our focus should not be on top-down processes, but rather on community-centred
82 initiatives.

83 As part of a European feminist foreign policy, the institutions which shape
84 foreign policy, such as the European External Action Service* and national
85 foreign services, must reflect the diversity of the societies they work for.
86 Foreign policy continues to be dominated by old white men, and it is the task of
87 institutions to actively take steps to change this.

88 **c. Peace and security**

89 Peace is more than the mere absence of war. Our understanding of peace entails a
90 positive peace that includes a commitment to justice and human rights and the
91 eradication of poverty, discrimination, and social exclusion, as well as
92 tackling the effects of the climate crisis.

93 Too often security is equated with militarisation. Such a perspective is not
94 only false and limiting, but harmful. We need a paradigm shift in terms of
95 security, putting more emphasis on crisis preparedness, resilience, and emerging
96 security challenges such as hybrid threats and climate change. Further
97 militarisation fails to meet today's security challenges. Instead of
98 militarisation, we therefore call for an allocation of resources to where they
99 can contribute to human security* and truly sustainable peace. This includes
100 ensuring funding for civil society organisations and humanitarian organisations.

101 Human beings, not state security, must be at the heart of all security efforts.
102 When it comes to conflict response, humanitarian action and dialogue must be
103 prioritised over militarised intervention. Imposing sanctions has precedent over
104 militarized intervention as well, yet sanctions must be targeted and do no harm

105 to the overall population. Within international organisations dealing with
106 security, the EU must actively fight for solutions built on the principles of
107 human security. Within the European Union, we must put an end to the unanimity
108 requirement to impose international economic sanctions. However, we recognise
109 that in certain situations dialogue is not enough. When genocide or other
110 horrific human rights abuses are occurring, or unprovoked crimes of aggression
111 occur and mediation has proven unsuccessful, we through the EU need to be able
112 to forcefully and militarily respond to protect human life and security. To this
113 end, we support the development of rapidly deployable and interoperable EU
114 military forces that are able to engage in peace enforcement and civilian
115 protection, such as the EUFOR Crisis Response Operations Core, so long as they
116 are truly used for this purpose and not as an instrument of economic or national
117 interests.

118 Through the production and export of arms, European States are fuelling
119 conflicts across the world. We demand the end of arms exports. In line with the
120 principle of human security, we also call on European States and the EU to
121 increase efforts to make nuclear weapons illegal under international law and
122 join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons*. We also advocate for the
123 global prohibition of lethal autonomous weapons (LAWs)*.

124 We support all Stateless Peoples subjected to oppression by other states. We
125 highlight the importance of supporting their fight for freedom and recognition,
126 and call for international treaties to be respected in context of colonizing or
127 apartheid regimes, only as defined by the Rome Statute of the International
128 Criminal Court. Military activities, as well as other forms of subjugation, must
129 be put to an end under the mandate of international organisations such as the
130 United Nations Security Council, or the International Court of Justice.
131 Recognition of new borders for these Peoples needs to be respected by all
132 parties in order to include them as a rightful member of the international
133 community.

134 The climate crisis will only bring more meteorological and humanitarian
135 disasters, which can be deadly, create problems for the delivery of essential
136 services and risk destroying critical infrastructure. In times of peace we
137 support the training and use of military forces for disaster response and
138 preparedness, both within Europe and outside of it, in strict accordance with
139 international law and solely under mandate.

140 **d. Migration**

141 We believe in the unrestricted right to travel and migrate for education,
142 economic, security, freedom, peace, climate, and other reasons. Freedom of
143 movement should be considered a human right. Your freedom and opportunities
144 should not depend on where you or your parents were born or your ability to

145 acquire a certain nationality.

146 At the same time, we are also conscious of the root causes of forced migration,
147 especially from countries in which people are affected by famine, war, climate
148 change, exploitation, and various kinds of persecution (ethnic, cultural,
149 religious, political, ...). You should not be forced to look for better and
150 safer conditions in other countries because your situation is deteriorating to
151 the point where your life and that of your loved ones are put in grave danger.
152 Furthermore, sustainable development cooperation is not only giving aid to those
153 who need them. Europe should be proactive in rooting out the causes of forced
154 migration, especially when originating from European actor's actions, and
155 ensuring human security (cf Feminist Foreign Policy)

156 Europe must become a safe haven for people seeking refuge. Illegal pushbacks* of
157 migrants and refugees must stop, and the humane treatment of migrants and
158 refugees upon and after their arrival ensured, in particular access to
159 sufficient food, clean and safe drinking water, and healthcare. The housing of
160 migrants and refugees in mass camps with poor living conditions must end, and
161 dignified housing must be provided immediately. Member states and local
162 governments should strive to provide secure small-scale housing which will serve
163 as a springboard for migrants and their families to be able to rent in the
164 private housing market in the medium and long-term. In housing refugees, member
165 states and local governments should also put the particular sensitivities into
166 consideration including, but not limited to, unaccompanied minors, LGBTQ+
167 migrants, and migrants with disabilities.

168 Human rights activists who organise voluntary rescue operations have been
169 charged with heinous crimes. Humans have always been migrating and will always
170 migrate. Europe should support migration, facilitate secure travel for all
171 migrants, especially refugees and asylum seekers, and make sure that all people
172 are saved when in distress, as regulated in international admiralty law.
173 Criminalising and hassling private organisations and commercial ships which do
174 so is a breach of international law and must be prosecuted. The European States'
175 and the EU's externalisation of border management, through agreements such as
176 the ones with the Turkish government and the Libyan authorities and militias,
177 has further amplified the violations of human rights at the borders of the EU.
178 This must end immediately.

179 We defend the right to asylum. Europe must create legal and safe channels for
180 migration. We demand humanitarian and resettlement visas, allowing refugees to
181 come to Europe safely. Administrative procedures to obtain these visas should be
182 free of charge for applicants at the point of service.

183 We need a common European asylum policy based on the principles of solidarity
184 with migrants, asylum-seekers, and refugees. The Dublin system* as we now know

185 it should be replaced. Refugees and asylum seekers already in the EU should be
186 able to effectively register for asylum, have access to asylum procedures, and
187 be able to request asylum not in the member state of arrival but in the one of
188 their choice. A common system of EU procedures, requirements, and checks must be
189 implemented, with clear time frames, in order to relieve pressure on the
190 individual. We need a common European asylum policy based on the principles of
191 solidarity. Additionally, all member states, particularly those who are of
192 better financial standing, must welcome more refugees, in order to relieve
193 pressure on border countries. In welcoming refugees, member states and local
194 governments should also put particular sensitivities into consideration
195 including, but not limited to, unaccompanied minors, LGBTQ+ migrants, and
196 migrants with disabilities.

197 Europe does not have a migrant or refugee crisis, Europe has a militarisation of
198 migration and border policies crisis. FYEG is unequivocally against “Fortress
199 Europe”. The militarisation of border management, including through Frontex*,
200 has turned Europe into a fortress, causing the death of thousands of migrants
201 every year. We demand the abolition of Frontex and the reallocation of its
202 budget and resources towards policy and appropriate institutions based on the
203 human security framework. Their main objective is to create political, economic,
204 social, cultural, and environmental conditions in which peoples' vital rights
205 and freedoms are secure.

206 Current border policies institutionalise racism and social stratification*.
207 Instead, we should make sure that our migration policies serve to create a
208 welcoming, inclusive, diverse, and peaceful Europe. This means equal access to
209 education, job opportunities for all, the recognition of education and skills
210 learnt in someone's country of origin, and the provision of language training.
211 Moreover, it should be easier to gain study, work, and residence permits in
212 Europe and to be granted family reunification. The granting of permanent
213 residence permits should be the norm, not the exception.

214 Across Europe, millions of people live undocumented. The rights of these
215 paperless people* should be protected. There are millions of young people who
216 were born in the European Union but are not EU citizens because of their
217 parents' migration status. Anyone who is born in the EU is European and should
218 receive an EU passport upon birth.

219 **e. The geopolitical challenges of digitalisation**

220 Digitalisation has brought new geopolitical challenges. Digital companies and
221 platforms are in an excellent position to use the flaws of the current
222 international system to their benefit, for example to avoid taxation or locate
223 the country that will offer them the best conditions and the lowest level of
224 accountability. At a time when certain companies have become more powerful than

225 states, only international cooperation and European legislation can provide
226 solutions and protect citizens' personal data and privacy. We support
227 dismantling the biggest tech companies to allow other actors to compete on a
228 level playing field and to avoid the over-concentration of power. We also
229 support the development of alternatives to tech giants that must show greater
230 respect for people's data and privacy.

231 Digitalisation has also created new online battlefields. The cyberattacks
232 reported by some media outlets, hospitals, and public services show the need to
233 reinforce cybersecurity*. The attempts of some countries to influence democratic
234 processes such as referenda and elections, for example through disinformation
235 campaigns, also demonstrate the need to take preventative measures. We support a
236 ban on targeted advertising* and the strong regulation of political advertising
237 on social media.

238 Finally, digitalisation also has geopolitical consequences in relation to the
239 consumption of rare earth elements (REEs). REEs are essential for the
240 manufacture of many electronic devices but are only found in sufficient
241 quantities in certain countries, which makes them a source of geopolitical
242 tension. We support the development of recycling facilities in Europe as well as
243 limits on the export of waste containing REEs.

244 **f. Trade and global justice**

245 Sharp global inequalities shape today's international system. Formerly colonised
246 countries are suffering from the legacy of colonialism to this day. Global
247 inequalities are also apparent in the climate crisis and the biodiversity
248 crisis, as those who are the most responsible are not the same as those who are
249 most severely affected. Global inequalities are perpetuated by free trade and by
250 international trade rules that leave countries powerless to face multinational
251 corporations.

252 FYEG stands for global justice. Global justice entails a rethinking of how we
253 conduct both development and trade. The EU should reserve 1% of its GDP for
254 development cooperation and should advocate for raising the OECD* standard to
255 1%. This amount must be fully spent on improving the situation of people in
256 poverty-stricken countries providing local aid groups, communities or relevant
257 authorities with funds and support to develop initiatives which fit their own
258 priorities, in respect of good governance. It should neither end up with
259 European companies that receive this as a covert subsidy, nor be spent to
260 prevent migration to Europe. The EU and its Member States must fundamentally re-
261 design their approach to trade agreements and finance development in order to
262 fully comply with highest fair trade and environmental standards.. Its
263 development banks believe in outdated economic models that result in accumulated
264 debt and large corporations stunting the growth of local businesses.

265 Trade must be fair. This means that trade can never be conducted at the expense
266 of human rights, democracy, social and environmental standards, or the fight
267 against the climate crisis. We oppose any trade and any trade agreements that do
268 not fulfil these criteria. Like development policies, fair trade must
269 acknowledge the responsibility of former colonial European states towards
270 countries which have historically been exploited and hindered in their economic
271 development by them. Fair trade must respect the interests of formerly colonised
272 countries and must not counter the objectives of development policies.

273 The change we are calling for is not limited to trade agreements. We also call
274 for regulatory due diligence and transparency in supply chains to prevent
275 environmental harm and to ensure social rights. European companies must be held
276 responsible in European States and the EU for breaches committed in third
277 countries. A human rights due diligence (HRDD) legislation, legally referring to
278 all human rights, should apply to all business relations of all companies who
279 are making use of the EU's single market (with specific considerations for SMEs)
280 to ensure that the entire supply chain is being looked at. We believe that HRDD
281 legislation must at least cover, but not be limited to, severe human rights
282 violations, and their enforcement must be uniform across the European Union.

283 FYEG stands for a different type of globalisation, one that is based not on
284 increasing profits and trade at all costs, but rather on exchanging ideas,
285 celebrating cultural diversity, and working together towards a better future.

286 **g. A Green European Neighbourhood Policy**

287 The European Union will not become stronger by closing itself off from others.
288 Through the European Neighbourhood Policy* the EU has since its inception tried
289 and failed to guarantee democracy, human rights, fair economies and rule of law
290 for states bordering the Mediterranean and to the East of the Union.

291 Though the expansion of the EU is not an end in itself, EU membership should be
292 open to all European countries that are not yet or no longer members of the EU.
293 We support the accession of countries who express the wish to join the EU if
294 they meet human rights, democratic, and rule of law criteria.

295 The European Union should develop and maintain strong cooperation with
296 neighbouring countries who are not members of the EU, including by guaranteeing
297 visa-free travel and participation in key programmes such as Erasmus+*. For non-
298 European states, the entire policy needs an overhaul with enhanced
299 conditionality, greater focus and rewards for progress on fundamental rights,
300 and cooperation on environmental and climate issues. As greens, we support
301 measures that secure peace and prosperity, and provide the basis for
302 environmental and climate action. The European Neighbourhood Policy has the
303 potential to do so, but does not contribute to the achievements of these

304 objectives right now.

PP2-Vnew FYEG Political Platform - A Social Europe

Proposers:

Agenda item: 2 New FYEG Political Platform

Political Platform text

1 5. A Social Europe

2 For several decades we have witnessed one social crisis leading to the next.
3 Each crisis either revealed or created more cracks in our social systems and
4 shone a spotlight on our deeply dated healthcare systems and unstable European
5 working environment.

6 Housing has become increasingly difficult to find, with wages stagnating while
7 living and housing costs rise. We live in a society that tolerates the fact that
8 some people are too poor to have a roof over their heads.

9 Instead of reducing inequalities and providing opportunities for all, education
10 systems across Europe are being transformed by a neoliberal* and productivist*
11 mindset and are reproducing inequalities from one generation to the next.

12 Those policies are still primarily dealt with at the national level, reinforcing
13 inequalities between as well as within countries. We need a truly social Europe.
14 This includes fighting inequalities, rethinking the way we work, and taking
15 strong action on housing, health, and education. The system needs to change –
16 now.

17 a. Fighting poverty

18 Millions of people across Europe are at risk of poverty and social exclusion,
19 with certain parts of Europe experiencing an increase in poverty rates. At the
20 same time, the rich are getting richer, with some individuals accumulating
21 indecent amounts of wealth. Neoliberalism and myths such as trickle-down theory*
22 have not delivered on their promises. Inequalities are on the rise, threatening
23 the cohesion of our societies.

24 FYEG supports strong welfare states, which it considers essential in the fight
25 against poverty and to guarantee the enforceability of fundamental rights. Their

26 dismantling in several parts of Europe must end. Action to fight poverty should
27 include but not be limited to ensuring that all individuals receive an income.
28 Existing benefits must be fair, must allow people to live above the poverty
29 line*, and should rise in line with average wage increases. Social services
30 should help to ensure that everyone has access to a home, healthcare, and
31 training and/or work. Our social policies must leave no one behind.

32 FYEG stands for the implementation of a minimum income across the EU, set at an
33 amount matching the cost of living in each region. Our social policy's goal is a
34 guaranteed social security net that leaves no one behind, the right to a
35 meaningful job, abolishing the low-wage sector with strong minimum wages and
36 tariffs, and a significant reduction of working hours while maintaining the wage
37 level. This should be financed by the higher taxation of the super-rich, among
38 other measures (see chapter 4 – Fiscal policy).

39 At the same time, Europe must not forget its privileged position in the world
40 and must also work towards eradicating inequalities worldwide (see chapter 6 –
41 Trade and global justice).

42 **b. The future of work**

43 With technological progress, digitalisation, and the need to reduce the
44 environmental impact of our economies, work is changing and is likely to
45 continue to do so. It is important to reflect on the future of work to ensure
46 these changes improve everyone's welfare and well-being.

47 FYEG supports a better balance between work and personal life. This will require
48 a whole range of changes, including a reduction in working hours. Studies have
49 shown that a reduction in working hours is accompanied by gains in efficiency.
50 Reducing working hours is also a feminist demand as it enables the
51 redistribution of unpaid care work. As a first step, we therefore propose a
52 maximum 32-hour working week within the European Union while maintaining wage
53 levels. We also support raising the number of paid holidays to a minimum of 40
54 days per year.

55 Work needs to be paid fairly. In order for people not to face economic
56 difficulties when working fewer hours, we have to start changing wages
57 immediately and start valuing work differently. Jobs that are traditionally
58 occupied by women tend to be valued less, although they bring significant
59 benefits to society. We should take into account not only the societal value of
60 a job but also the level of mental and physical effort it demands in order to
61 determine wage levels. To use the example of care work, jobs in this sector are
62 systematically underpaid, with the mental and physical demands of the job not
63 adequately reflected in the wages paid, and involve poor working conditions.
64 FYEG supports raising wages to above average levels for people who work in the

65 care sector.

66 Wage differences across Europe are used by multinational companies to maximise
67 their profits, exploiting workers in countries where wages are the lowest and
68 firing workers in countries where wages are higher. In order to prevent the
69 lowering of social standards and the deterioration of workers' rights, we
70 support the introduction of an EU minimum wage scheme*, with minimum wages based
71 on the cost of living in a particular country or region and a mechanism to
72 progressively harmonise them. No one who works should live below the poverty
73 line. Workers should be able to travel freely, seek employment, and work in the
74 country of their choice. Strong protective measures are needed to ensure that
75 the foreign posting of workers is not used to bypass national social protection
76 schemes.

77 Interns and trainees also must receive fair pay in order to cover their living
78 costs and in recognition of the value of the work they do. FYEG wants an
79 immediate ban on unpaid internships.

80 It is easy to lose a job – and it can be extremely difficult to find another
81 one. Unemployment is not an individual failure, but an inevitability in our
82 broken economic system. The welfare state should be a safety net that leaves no
83 one in poverty. People need to be protected during periods of unemployment. We
84 fight for fair unemployment benefits* and the fair treatment of those trying to
85 re-enter the labour market. Over the course of their lives, individuals change
86 jobs far more frequently than in previous generations. We therefore support the
87 reinforcement of lifelong learning schemes to allow people to study or train for
88 new jobs at any point in their lives.

89 We support the introduction of parental leave* schemes across Europe that
90 guarantee that every new parent, regardless of their gender, has access to a
91 period of paid parental leave of at least three months. Mechanisms should be put
92 in place to ensure that parental leave schemes contribute to gender equality.
93 Mandatory parental leave for new fathers can help to reduce the discrimination
94 that new mothers face when applying for jobs, as well as promote the equal
95 distribution of domestic tasks in the household. Therefore we support a model
96 where both parents have 4 more months of paid parental leave with additional 4
97 months left to distribute freely between themselves.

98 FYEG recalls the right to unionise and considers that trade unions* play a
99 crucial role in improving working conditions. The right to unionise as well as
100 the right to strike must be recognised and protected across Europe. Moreover,
101 bodies which represent employees' interests should be strengthened, and 50% of
102 the seats on the boards of large companies should be reserved for employee
103 representatives.

104 Digitalisation has led to new forms of work and employment such as the gig
105 economy, in which workers are not employed on regular work contracts which
106 include social protection, but are instead paid for each task completed. While
107 this can bring a flexibility that some workers enjoy, we must ensure that gig
108 workers have equal social protection, including health and work-related accident
109 insurance, protection against discrimination, parental benefits and rights, and
110 pensions. We must also ensure that the platforms and companies who use gig
111 workers are paying salary, tax, and other costs in line with other actors, as
112 well as requiring platforms and other companies to officially employ “false
113 self-employed” individuals in the event that they request this.

114 We also believe that work which has a positive impact on the environment and on
115 society should be properly rewarded, for example through grants. We propose
116 setting up a care income* in the form of a premium paid by states to reward
117 those who care for people, society in general, and the environment on a non-
118 professional basis.

119 We believe in fair retirement policies, such as a progressive retirement age
120 which allows people to continue working after that age if they freely choose to
121 do so. Many retired people, especially women, receive extremely low pensions. We
122 support decent pension incomes for all which are sufficient for a dignified
123 life.

124 **c. Discrimination in the workplace**

125 FYEG recognises that racism, sexism, classism, homophobia, transphobia, ableism,
126 and ageism – which it believes to be inherent to neoliberal capitalism – do not
127 stop at the doors of our workplaces, and stands for anti-discrimination policies
128 in the workplace.

129 Every European company should have a clear policy in relation to toxic behaviour
130 including unconscious bias, hateful speech, and sexual harassment in the
131 workplace, as well as organising regular trainings on this. We also want to
132 strengthen European law in order to make it easier for people who have
133 experienced sexual harassment to come forward and take legal action against
134 their harassers.

135 A European regulation for equality in the workplace should be adopted, making it
136 mandatory for companies to implement an equality plan, ensure gender balance and
137 promote diversity in all levels of company governance , and have a clear plan to
138 ensure the closure of any wage gap. .Companies with more than 20 employees must
139 implement a quorum for governing bodies in the middle and top layer of the
140 company, ensuring that a maximum of 60% of people within these governing bodies
141 is cis-gendered and male. Companies who fail to implement basic principles such
142 as equal pay for equal work should be sanctioned.

143 FYEG stands for the full equality of all genders. We are calling on the European
144 Union to develop a strategy to end gender discrimination. This strategy must
145 include non-binary and trans people.

146 Racism in workplaces must be fought, and finally ended. In order to achieve
147 this, companies must commit to diversity internships, fellowships, and other
148 programmes. Additionally, antiracism policies, diversity and inclusion reports,
149 and regular training must be made mandatory. We support using testing to expose
150 discrimination and condemn companies that discriminate against people.

151 We support freedom of movement*, as well as the freedom to stay*. The
152 exploitation of migrant workers must be brought to an end. Working and
153 employment conditions, as well as access to benefits, should be determined
154 according to the country in which a person is working, not their nationality or
155 background. Companies, governments, and courts should treat migrant workers the
156 same as other workers. We are concerned about the current practice of several
157 European countries to treat highly skilled migrant workers and other migrant
158 workers differently. We call for the establishment of a universal right to
159 migration for work purposes, as well as a common European policy framework for
160 labour migration.

161 Young people all over Europe need to work in order to study or to support their
162 families. They are often treated differently to their older colleagues. FYEG
163 would require employers to pay young people (including minors) the same amount
164 as their older colleagues for performing the same work. Union-supported and
165 regulated wage increases based on the number of years working in a certain field
166 or at a particular workplace could still be permitted.

167 **d. Housing**

168 FYEG stands for housing for all. For this to happen, housing must be affordable
169 for all and no longer a profit-making activity. We aim towards a world in which
170 housing is no longer a commodity but rather a human right. States should
171 intervene on the housing market to prevent speculation* and ensure that everyone
172 has a home.

173 We believe that affordable housing should also be decent and of good quality.
174 With extreme weather events becoming more and more frequent, it is more
175 important than ever to build houses which can withstand disasters like flooding
176 and earthquakes. In order to ensure that housing is truly a right for all, we
177 believe that all new buildings must be made accessible for disabled people.
178 There will be stricter supervision of real estate agents and private landlords.
179 For example, use is made of "anonymous tenants" to combat discrimination in the
180 housing sector. In addition to warnings and fines, rental permits can also be
181 withdrawn if there is structural mismanagement.

182 Many Europeans are still facing energy poverty* and are not able to heat their
183 homes, in particular single-parents, mostly women. Buildings are responsible for
184 approximately 40% of energy consumption and 36% of CO2 emissions in the EU. We
185 believe all housing should be energetically renovated within the next 10 years
186 and environmental standards for buildings must aim to minimise the use of
187 embodied energy during planning and construction and a maximum of energy
188 efficiency during their lifecycle .

189 We need higher taxation for property purchases that exceed individual needs. We
190 also need better rental rights for people who cannot afford to buy a house and
191 those who prefer not to own a home. In places where rents have increased in the
192 last decades we support the introduction of rent control measures, which have
193 already been implemented in several places. We also support cities who are
194 putting restrictions on short-term tourist lets that drive up rental prices. The
195 geographic side of public housing in Europe is currently based on the economic
196 value of houses. This results in segregation between rich and poor and thus also
197 between ethnic groups. We counter this on a policy basis.

198 We have to increasingly invest in public housing* at local, regional, federal,
199 and EU levels in order to combat overburdening by housing costs, which affects
200 around 80 million people in the EU. In many countries, public housing is not
201 evenly distributed between cities and districts, thus increasing inequalities.
202 We support the introduction of public housing quotas by city and by
203 neighbourhood.

204 While some people are overburdened with housing costs, others cannot afford
205 housing at all. The number of homeless people in the EU has risen by 70% since
206 2010, and more than 700,000 people are now sleeping rough all over Europe. We
207 must therefore launch a Europe-wide plan for everyone to have access to
208 inclusive, climate friendly, and decent homes. We support approaches such as
209 Housing First* that provide homeless people with housing without preconditions,
210 seeing this as the first step towards integration. Our general aim is a fair
211 housing market without excessive costs for tenants and buyers and where everyone
212 can afford a place to live. Over the long term, there should be serious
213 consideration given to deprivatising the housing market.

214 **e. Health**

215 As stated in Article 25 of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights,
216 "everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for [their] health and
217 well-being". A free and accessible universal healthcare system is essential to
218 achieve these standards, based on physical and psychological well-being as well
219 as social care and prevention. Healthcare should be inclusive of everyone
220 without discrimination and be based on the best current scientific knowledge.

221 FYEG supports publicly funded healthcare. Health is not a commodity, but a human
222 right. Healthcare that is free at point of use means that people are not
223 expected to pay for accessing healthcare services (primary and secondary care).
224 Instead, their health insurance is covered through tax. Healthcare workers are
225 essential, and their working and employment conditions must be improved.

226 The huge disparities between rural and urban access to healthcare, such as
227 emergency and specialised services, should be addressed, with investment made to
228 support and increase the number of healthcare services and workers in rural
229 areas.

230 Cooperation between companies and states allows health crises to be tackled more
231 effectively and solutions to health issues more easily available to countries in
232 need. International organisations such as the WHO should therefore be
233 strengthened, while also being made more transparent and inclusive.

234 The European Union is beginning the process to establish a European Health
235 Union. FYEG supports a mechanism to harmonise healthcare across Europe. To
236 develop this, the EU should commit to properly funding its EU4Health programme*.

237 About 25 % of Europe's citizens suffer from mental health problems. As FYEG, we
238 demand that mental health and related conditions be taken more seriously. We
239 have to increase the availability of counselling and psychotherapy as well as
240 funding for other mental health services in order to provide adequate and
241 affordable care for every European citizen who is experiencing mental health
242 problems, independent of their economic or social background.

243 Marginalised groups (for example women, LGBTQIA+, racialised people) often face
244 issues when trying to access healthcare, such as stigma around their health
245 needs and discrimination, to the point of being refused treatment or not taken
246 seriously. Those with existing medical conditions (such as people with
247 disabilities and/or chronic illnesses), may face difficulties receiving
248 treatment for other conditions. All discrimination should be fought against,
249 with awareness-raising and stigma-reducing campaigns and training for healthcare
250 workers. Additionally, we demand more research to be conducted into mental
251 health in marginalised groups, as well as initiatives that specifically target
252 loneliness and the social isolation of specific groups such as elderly people,
253 chronically ill people, and disabled people.

254 FYEG fights for sexual and reproductive health and rights (see chapter 1).

255 FYEG also supports a stronger focus on prevention in public health policy.
256 Fighting air and water pollution, eliminating endocrine disruptors and
257 carcinogenic substances, promoting healthy diets including the reduced
258

259 consumption of heavily processed food, and promoting sport are all key actions
260 to prevent severe chronic disease. A healthy lifestyle should be affordable for
261 everyone. Therefore, fruit and vegetables should be cheaper and unhealthy
262 products should be increased in price. Sports are important for social contact
263 and should not only be promoted, but also be accessible for all. Therefore,
264 financial support should be given when necessary. Prevention policies on smoking
265 and drinking should also be put in place, for example through information
266 campaigns, taxation, the regulation of sales, and bans on advertising. FYEG
267 encourages countries to create separate shops for alcohol and tobacco. Smoking
268 should be banned in public places where it is clearly a nuisance to people's
269 health. FYEG supports a harm-reduction approach through prevention programmes
270 within drug policy and the treatment of addiction. Alongside addiction
271 awareness-raising, the stigma around addiction should be tackled. Addiction
272 should be recognised as a medical condition, and social protection and medical
and social support should be offered to those suffering from addiction.

273 We support the full legalisation of drugs across Europe, while increasing
274 prevention measures. Drug legalisation would deprive organised crime structures
275 of a lucrative source of income. Tax revenues from drug sales should be used to
276 fund the healthcare and prevention sectors and social services.

277 We demand a fair, publicly owned pharmaceutical sector. Large pharmaceutical
278 companies should not hold the monopoly* on public safety, especially when this
279 leads to unequal access to life-saving treatments. Additionally, life-saving
280 drugs should not be sold at a profit. All contracts made between pharmaceutical
281 companies and national governments or the European Union should be transparent
282 and made publicly available.

283 Individuals' well-being, dignity, and wishes should be fully respected in the
284 healthcare system. We fight for improving palliative care* and for allowing
285 people to choose how and when for allowing people to choose the way they die
286 die.

287 **f. Education**

288 Education is more than just learning how to spell, counting to 10 or training
289 workers. It should also be the process of learning how to grow as a person and
290 as a member of society. Education must be accessible to all genders, ages,
291 sexualities, religions, and ethnicities, independent of ability, origin, place of
292 residence, access to digital tools, wealth, or legal status.

293 Education should not depend on the balance of your bank account. It should be
294 free and publicly funded, from kindergarten to university. Education should not
295 focus on performance or economic profitability. Pressure should be taken off
296 children and students, and special attention should be paid to their mental

297 health.

298 Vocational colleges* and universities are of equal importance to institutions of
299 higher education. Young people who want to pursue a more practical education
300 should be given the same resources as those who are more academically inclined.
301 We believe that young people who pursue a practical education should receive
302 payment for the duration of their apprenticeship and be ensured qualified
303 guidance throughout their education.

304 All types of curricula should be inclusive. Topics such as LGBTQIA+ issues, sex
305 education, mental health, and anti-racism, among others, should feature in every
306 school's curriculum. We believe that students from ethnic or linguistic minority
307 groups should have access to, for example, their culture and/or language of
308 origin in schools, either as an extra-curricular activity or as part of the main
309 curriculum. It should be safe and possible to break gender norms and class norms
310 in the educational system, and students should be encouraged to follow their
311 dreams and passions instead of fulfilling social expectations.

312 FYEG also believes that European and international mobility should be accessible
313 to all from an early age. With that in mind, we support increasing the budget of
314 the Erasmus+ programme to guarantee that every young person has the opportunity
315 to take part in an international mobility programme before graduating from
316 secondary school and before graduating from university.