

## R9 Position yourself on digital rights!

Proposer: écolo j, DWARS  
Agenda item: 1. Resolutions

### Motion text

1 Technology now permeates every aspect of our lives; the 'digital' angle has  
2 become relevant to all domains - whether health<sup>1</sup>, security<sup>2</sup>, democracy<sup>3</sup>,  
3 migration<sup>4</sup>, justice<sup>5</sup>, gender and personal identity<sup>6</sup>, international relations<sup>7</sup>,  
4 or of course personal communications<sup>8</sup>. Digital rights are therefore increasingly  
5 important, as they shape what is possible and what is necessary, the structure &  
6 dynamics of our lives.

7 There is also an increasing interest from the general public into the digital -  
8 the youth knows of the GAFAM, of the importance of personal data (GDPR), of the  
9 way they are tracked on the internet in order to be targeted with intrusive  
10 tailored ads, ...

11 However, green (and other) political parties have not yet picked up digital  
12 rights as a key priority, despite it having become a core aspect of our lives  
13 and of many 'green' fights. It is not clear for the public - and the youth  
14 particularly - what a 'proper digital society' is for the different parties  
15 within their framework of values (or at least that is not made clear enough to  
16 the general public). Yet, it is both strategic and logical for greens across  
17 Europe to claim the (currently rather unoccupied) spot of defenders of digital  
18 rights, as it is in the continuity of the greens' values and the fights they  
19 picked so far - ambitious and forward-looking.

20 It is particularly strategic as there are many recent and forthcoming laws that  
21 are relevant from a digital rights perspective both at national level (e.g. in  
22 Belgium: [data retention](#)) and at EU level (Digital Services Act, Data Act,  
23 Artificial Intelligence Act, Child Sexual Abuse Regulation, Advance Passenger  
24 Information Regulation, the European Health Data Space, etc.). More will come,  
25 and hence the importance of the theme 'digital' is here to stay. Many rights &  
26 interests are at stake with these laws - among others our rights to anonymity in  
27 the public space, to freedom of speech, to freedom of information, to privacy,  
28 to the secrecy of our personal communications, to freedom of movement, to  
29 fairness & non-discrimination. Algorithms, on the other side, raise concerns  
30 about key principles for individual and communal life - such as the principles  
31

32 of transparency, accountability, fairness & non-discrimination, freedom of  
movement & speech.

33 These are rights that we fought hard to gain “back in the days”, and principles  
34 we fought to establish durably, but because they are ‘reborn’ under the prism of  
35 digital spaces and technologies, and because data, digital tools and processing  
36 power allow for unprecedented insights and ways to monitor and control people,  
37 these rights have to be fought for anew. Green parties already support and  
38 defend them, but ‘digital’ still remains a marginal topic politically - there is  
39 little political positioning through it despite its importance.

40 In light of the importance of these rights and principles, and in light of their  
41 newly-found prevalence in all areas of work traditionally (though not  
42 exclusively) ‘Green’, this motion is calling on Green parties to pick up digital  
43 rights as a key priority for the 2024 european elections - to think ahead  
44 together: what is a sustainable digital society? What principles & interests  
45 should prevail? What is our ambitious Green vision for a digital society (beyond  
46 the more ‘traditional’ green digital angles of sustainability, right to repair &  
47 digital divide), and how much of prominence should it have in a political  
48 program ?

49 This resolution is a call from the Federation of Young European Greens to seize  
50 the transversal topic of ‘digital’ in politics, a call to Green parties to  
51 position themselves (more clearly) as champions of a sustainable digitised  
52 society, and a call to claim the spotlight for an electorate who increasingly  
53 cares about the architecture of their digital personal, communal and political  
54 life. At a time where [tech has become the biggest lobby sector](#) in the EU by  
55 spending (ahead of pharma, fossil fuels, finance, and chemicals), let’s think  
56 ahead about what the key digital priorities of the green youth for the short-  
57 and long-term represent, and their place in politics!

### 58 **References:**

- 59 1. [1] Digitisation of [patients’ health records](#) and its forced sharing: what  
60 space for choice and autonomy? Opt-in vs opt-out. [2] Covid-19:  
61 technosolutionism in contact-tracing apps and combined databases
- 62 2. [1] Facial recognition: the Greens/EFA’s position on the [AI Act](#); the  
63 [petition](#) to ban it in Bruxelles. [2] Mass surveillance of citizens in  
64 ‘democratic’ countries: data retention (in all Member States - [DE](#), [BE](#), NL,  
65 [IE](#), [LU](#), SE, [PT](#),...)

- 66 3. [1] Advertising is key to the free internet - targeted advertising isn't;  
67 about [the internet' business model](#), how we are constantly tracked and  
68 profiled on the net, and how it harms consumers and publishers alike. [2]  
69 Targeted political advertising as a [threat to democracies](#) (Cambridge  
70 Analytica).
- 71 4. The increasingly '[connected' databases](#) of the police & migration  
72 authorities.
- 73 5. SyRI (System Risk Indicator) - the [algorithmic risk profiling](#) method  
74 employed by the Dutch government (and others) to detect individual risks  
75 of welfare, tax and other types of fraud.
- 76 6. [1] Reproductive Privacy Requires Data Privacy- [Roe v Wade](#). [2] [The](#)  
77 [digital euro](#): will all our transactions be tracked or not? [3] Orwell's  
78 Wallet: European [electronic identity](#) system leads us straight into  
79 surveillance capitalism. Should we be tracked all over the web, or should  
80 we have a right to anonymity?
- 81 7. Sovereignty and surveillance - diplomatic transatlantic politics of [data](#)  
82 [transfers](#) with Schrems II.
- 83 8. Techno-solutionism & [the privacy of communications](#): the CSA Regulation.