

EC5 Christina Keßler: Candidate for Executive Committee

Agenda item: 2. Executive Committee Candidates

Introduction

FYEG is my political home, a place where I have grown a lot, both politically and personally. Since I started getting involved in the organisation in 2017, I have learnt so much, especially thanks to the many incredible people I have met through the organisation. I am running for a second mandate in the EC because I want to contribute to the task of taking FYEG forward. I am excited for what's to come, and I want to actively take part in shaping FYEG's next steps into the future, towards the 2024 European Parliament elections.

I am very happy to have a chat about my candidacy as well as the ideas I have for the next mandate – just reach out to me via email (christina.kessler@fyeg.org) or through Telegram!

See you in Barcelona! <3

Supporters

Marta Bogustova (Protests); Mylena Ferreira (Joves Ecosocialistes); Alyona Sherekhova (Зелена молодь України - Green youth of Ukraine); Salih Tuna (Genç Yeşiller); Nefertiti Bikin-kita (Swiss Young Greens); Theo Lecarpentier (écolo j); Nijat Guliyev (MIL Network); Benjamin Wold Birmanis (Young Greens of England and Wales); Konsta Lindi (Vihreät nuoret); Ellen De Wit (Jong Groen); Mireia Roncero (Juventud Verde)



Member Organisation:
Grüne Jugend (Germany)



MOTIVATION LETTER

DEAR GREEN FRIENDS,

I am very excited to run for a second mandate in the FYEG's Executive Committee! With this letter, I want to give you some insight into my motivation.

Getting involved in Green youth politics proved surprisingly difficult for me. I was born and raised in Germany but left the country when I was 18 (I am 26 now and still haven't gone back - currently I am based in Brussels). Moving around a lot and oftentimes not speaking the local language well enough to get involved (sorry ik spreek geen nederlands), I started searching for a way to get involved anyway - and found FYEG!

I first became active in FYEG in 2017 when I joined the Working Group 'Future of Europe'. I remember my first FYEG event and how amazing it was to find myself surrounded by people who shared my values, and ideas, and were equally enthusiastic about the same issues. The following year I again became engaged in a Working Group ('Welcoming and Inclusive Europe'), this time as a coordinator. In 2020, I was elected to the Political Platform Committee and, together with an amazing team, drafted the new Political Platform, focusing especially on the topics of feminism and LGBTQI+ rights, democracy, and international affairs. Last year, I joined the FYEG Office as a communications intern and got to know the organisation from yet another side, learning a lot about FYEG structures in the process. I also used to be a member of the Ecosprinter Editorial Board, the FYEG-affiliated magazine for young Greens from all across Europe. Last year at the General Assembly in Karlsruhe, I was elected to the FYEG EC.

In this mandate, I have taken over the membership coordination for FYEG. In this role, I have been thinking strategically about the regions where we can and want to grow as FYEG and where our member organisations could use extra help and support. I have also taken responsibility for the preparation of the 2024 European election campaign and together with the FYEG office we have created a campaign plan that we are proud of. In the summer, elections took place in Italy and our co-spokesperson Benni found out at relatively short notice that she would have the opportunity to run for the Italian Parliament. As FYEG EC we made the decision to support this candidacy and I took over the coordination of the FYEG support campaign, a very intense experience. Even though Benni missed the entry into parliament, we exceeded our self-set target of 10,000 votes.

FYEG is my political home, a place where I have grown a lot, both politically and personally. I have learnt so much over the last few years, especially thanks to the many incredible people I have met through the organisation. Today, I am running for a second mandate in the EC because I want to contribute to the task of taking FYEG forward. I am excited for what's to come, and I want to actively take part in shaping FYEG's next steps into the future, towards the 2024 European Parliament elections.

WITH LOTS OF LOVE,

CHRISTINA



MY VISION FOR FYEG

2024 - LET'S GO!

When I look at the world right now, it scares me, and it scares me a lot. More than a year after the full-scale invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation, the brutal war rages on. Across Europe and the globe, far-right, anti-democratic forces are gaining momentum and entering governments. Authoritarian forces are threatening our societies - both from the outside and from within. The results of global heating are not some distant prospect anymore, but affect people around the world today - forest fires, droughts, and natural catastrophes are becoming more and more common. I am not an optimist, I often expect the worst. But I also don't want the dire state of our world to paralyze me. I want it to lead me to action.

In 2017, when I just started my FYEG journey, the then Co-spokesperson of FYEG shared with us what gives her hope and motivation when things are tough. It's the thought that you are here, and you are working towards making the world a better place. But you are not alone in this. At this very moment, there are so so many other people in so many different places working towards the same goals, and taken as a whole, this amounts to a lot.

In 2024 we have the chance to make something great happen. As FYEG, we are ready to work together to create the best pan-European campaign we have seen thus far. 2024 is about making sure our topics make it to the top of the agenda and dominate the debate around the European Parliament elections. 2024 is about creating a community and getting young activists from all across Europe involved. 2024 is about supporting all of the young Green candidates and providing them with the support they need.

Last year, we have created the foundations for an amazing campaign that FYEG can be proud of. Now it's game time! I am incredibly excited about this campaign, and I hope you are too.

A FEMINIST FEDERATION

One of the most impactful memories I made during my very first FYEG event was the experience of being in a truly feminist space. FYEG is a proudly feminist organisation that has done a lot of work in the past to make sure it offers spaces that are safe and inclusive. However, I am sometimes scared that we are losing this.

Building a truly feminist organisation in a patriarchal world is a never-ending struggle. Being a leftist, activist space is no automatic safeguard against sexism and misogyny - and as anyone can tell you, male grandiosity is as common in activist spaces as everywhere else. If we want to live up to our ideals, we need to continuously prioritize making FYEG a feminist, inclusive organisation.

In our campaign, I want us to continuously take a feminist approach. This includes the topics that we chose to highlight. It also includes who we focus on. Specifically in our Young Candidates platform, I want us to put a special emphasis on female and non-binary candidates. Being a young candidate is always hard, but it is harder when you are female or non-binary, a person of colour, or someone who just simply does not really fit into the random idea of what our society has decided is worthy of decision-making. The hatred that targets young women and non-binary people in the public space has a strategy behind it. The strategy of shutting everyone who is not a cis white man up. With FYEG, we can create a Young Candidates Platform that protects, supports and offers guidance, not letting anyone alone with the difficult experiences that come with being a candidate.

BUILDING BRIDGES

For our campaign, I want us to build bridges. Looking outwards, FYEG should build connections with actors that are working towards the same goals and where those connections exist, strengthen them. This of course includes but does not stop with other actors within the Green family, like the EGP, the Greens/EFA and the Green European Foundation. In some issue areas, our political goals overlap with those of other political youth organisations, and we can achieve more by working together.

But building bridges is also a task that we must continuously work on internally. Sometimes, within our Federation, we approach issues from very different perspectives, and sometimes we also disagree. And that's completely fine. We do not need to agree on everything, in fact, no democratic movement ever does.

What we need to do is find ways to manage our differences and build understanding and respect for each other through exchange and dialogue. Meanwhile, we must not lose sight of the importance of working together and of the many many things we agree on. At the end of the day, there is much more that unites us than what divides us.





CHRISTINA KESSLER

FYEG VOLUNTEERING

Member of the FYEG Executive Committee | 2022 - 2023
Responsible for MO Coordination, the 2024 European Parliament election campaign, FYEG's support campaign to Benedetta Scuderi's Italian Parliament campaign

Member of the Ecosprinter Editorial Board | 2021 - 2022
The Magazine for Young European Greens

Member of the Political Platform Committee | 2020 - 2021
Focus on the chapters 'Diverse and Feminist Europe', 'Democratic Europe', and 'Europe in the World'

Working Group Coordinator | 2018 - 2019
Welcoming and Inclusive Europe WG

Working Group Member | 2017 - 2018
Future of Europe WG

OTHER VOLUNTEERING

German Greens in Brussels | 2022 - 2023
Responsible for Social Media

Green Group at the College of Europe | 2020
Chair

Student Association for Gender Equality | 2019 - 2020
Responsible for Social Media

European Student Think Tank | 2019 - 2020
Deputy Director for Communications

EuroPeer Network | 2017 - 2018
European Youth Mobility promotion

WORK EXPERIENCE

Policy Intern | since 3/2023
Policy Planning Unit of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation

Assistant to the Secretary-General | 12/2021 - 1/2023
European Green Party

Communications Intern | 9/2021 - 12/2021
FYEG and Greens/EFA Group in the European Parliament

Press Intern | 6/2018 - 7/2018
German Representation of the European Commission

Amsterdam Tourguide | 2017 - 2018
Best Dam Segways

Human Resources Intern | 7/2017 - 8/2017
KION AG

European Voluntary Service | 2015 - 2016
Twinning Committee in Caen, France

EDUCATION

MSc Global Governance and Diplomacy | 2020 - 2021
University of Oxford (United Kingdom)
Diplomacy and International Law, Peacebuilding and Statebuilding, Qualitative and Quantitative Research Methods

MA European Political and Governance Studies | 2019 - 2020
College of Europe (Belgium)
Political Economy of European Integration, EU Environmental and Climate Policy, EU Foreign Policy

BA (Hons) Liberal Arts and Sciences | 2016 - 2019
Amsterdam University College (Netherlands)

- Politics and International Relations with a Minor in Communication Studies
- Exchange Semester at National University of Singapore

Dear General Assembly,

hereby we would like to express our deepest support for Christina Keßler's application as a general board member for the FYEG EC for 2023/2024.

Christina has been a member of the FYEG in 2022/2023, successfully taking on the challenging task of Member Organisation coordination of FYEG. As such, she took a strategic approach to FYEG's membership and its growth, built relations with potential new member organisations and followed political developments in a variety of countries. She supported the regional responsables in their work and got actively involved when there was a need for support in difficult situations. She also oversaw relations with CDN, the Cooperation and Development Network Eastern Europe.

Christina also was co-responsible for the preparations for the EU 2024 elections. She worked on FYEG's campaign plan for 2024, creating the foundations for a kick-ass campaign that will strengthen the Young Green movement across Europe and put Young Green topics at the centre of the debate.

Further, Christina took on the task of coordinating the FYEG support campaign for Benedetta Scuderi's candidacy to the Italian Parliament, which engaged Young Greens from across Europe and, while not resulting in Benedetta's election, still surpassed its aim of 10.000 votes.

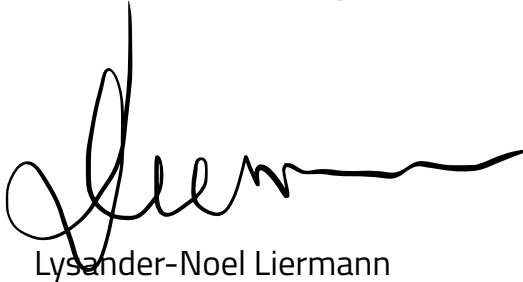
Christina has been active in FYEG since 2017, having gotten to know the organisation as a Working Group member and later as a Working Group coordinator. In 2020, she was elected to the Political Platform Committee, the team which re-wrote the new Political Platform of the organisation which was successfully adopted in 2021. In 2022, she completed an internship with the FYEG Office, supporting its communications work. She also was a member of the Ecosprinter Editorial Board, the FYEG magazine.

Christina is deeply committed to Green values in general and FYEG in particular. She has demonstrated that she is very well organised, and we know her capable of combining the responsibilities of an EC mandate with other responsibilities in her life.

Her proactive approach, her positive attitude and the diligence she exhibits in her work will be a valuable addition to the next FYEG EC. We know that she has the capacity, motivation and enthusiasm to carry on the idea of FYEG in the next year and will definitely enrich the organization's future work.

With her skills and personal qualities, her knowledge about and contacts within the international green movement, and her past engagement and experiences with FYEG, we wholeheartedly support Christina's application as a general board member of the FYEG EC.

If you have any questions or wish to have further information, please do not hesitate to contact me by writing to lysander.liermann@gruene-jugend.de!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lysander', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lysander-Noel Liermann
International Secretary and member of the federal board
GRÜNE JUGEND