

EGP1 Christina Kessler

Proposer: Christina Kessler (Grüne Jugend)

Agenda item: 3. FYEG representative to the EGP Committee



Motivation

Dear friends,

I am running for the Committee of the European Green Party.

A lot of changes are ahead for the EGP. In December, a new Committee will be elected - for the first time comprising 13 members. Out of those 13 members, 4 are elected for a specific function and 8 are regular members. One seat is nominated by FYEG. That is the seat I am running for.

FYEG is my political home. It is a space where I have learnt and grown a lot, where I have found community, and where I have met many of my closest friends. For the last two years, I have contributed to the Federation as a member of its Executive Committee. From December onwards, I want to contribute to the organisation as its representative to the EGP.

While the EGP Committee is elected only in December, FYEG will elect its representative to the EGP already in August, at our upcoming General Assembly.

This is a new position and I have put a lot of thought into how I want to shape this role. I believe that I have the skills and the experience to make a positive difference for FYEG in this position.

I am deeply committed to FYEG and have strong ties to the organisation. I also have proven that I am dedicated and capable of staying engaged over a prolonged period.

I have been active in FYEG since 2017 in various positions, as a Working Group Coordinator, Co-author of the Political Platform, Member of the Ecosprinter Editorial Board and also as an FYEG intern. For the last two years, I have been a member of FYEG's EC. I love this Federation very much and I am deeply committed to it. I am convinced that I still have more to give to the youth space and to FYEG. At the same time, I am experienced enough to understand what it means to commit to a role for a prolonged period of time. The position I am putting myself forward for is mandated for three years. I can promise you that I will not flake out after year one. You can count on me to commit to this role not just for the next year, but also for the time after that.



I have extensive experience with the European Green Party and know how it works.

I have represented FYEG at several EGP Congresses. For example, I have coordinated Benni's campaign as an EGP Lead Candidate for the 2024 European elections. What you might not know is that I also have worked for the EGP in the past, as Assistant to the Secretary General. In that role I first worked for Mar Garcia and later for Benedetta De Marte. I understand the similarities and differences between EGP and FYEG. I know the complex environment in which EGP decision-making takes place. I have a very thorough knowledge of European politics. And if that's not enough for you, I have a fun fact: I actually have written my master's thesis about the EGP!

I have the skills this role requires.

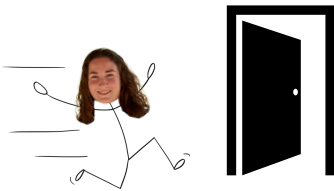
Because I know both EGP and FYEG, I know this role will require certain skills. These skills go beyond the requirements that are listed in the candidacy call. I have proven over the last years in FYEG that I have those skills. I have a good work ethic and am well organised, having learnt how to manage my time and my work in an effective manner while making sure I do not burn out. I am a team player. I work well with others and care very much about being reliable, communicating clearly if there are problems, but also, simply showing empathy and understanding for each other when things get difficult. I have the ability to express myself in a diplomatic way and yet be clear with my words. I am patient. I have the perseverance to sit in a meeting for an entire day for three days straight. I am passionate about Green values, but most importantly, I am passionate about FYEG.

Lots of love,

Christina



My FYEG Journey



My FYEG journey started in 2017, when I joined a Working Group.

In the following year, I coordinated the Working Group.



This is from a Strategic Planning Meeting back in 2019.

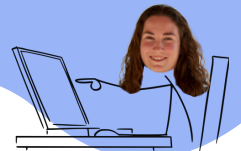
And then I got to know the FYEG Office as an intern!



I became a member of the Editorial Board of the Ecosprinter.



In 2020, I got elected to co-write the new Political Platform of FYEG. Until today, I am very proud of the work that went into this document.



In 2022, I got elected to the Executive Committee for the first time!!



And re-elected in in 2023 in Barcelona! <3

FYEG is my political family, a space where I have learnt and grown and found many of my closest friends. I love this Federation very much.

Vision

A lot of changes are ahead for the EGP. In the next few months, the structure of the EGP secretariat is going to transform and the party has to adjust to the realities of a smaller Green Group in the European Parliament. In December, EGP member parties will elect a new Committee - for the first time comprising 13 people (including two co-chairs and a treasurer). The increase in the number of Committee members will likely be accompanied by shifts in how the Committee debates and makes decisions.

In the past, FYEG has built a close, trusting relationship with EGP. At the same time, FYEG is distinct from the EGP. FYEG is respected as its independent political organisation with its own structures, political positions, and initiatives. The decision by EGP Member Parties to include a seat for FYEG in the new structure is a reflection of this respect.

In my work as FYEG Representative to the EGP Committee, I want to build on this.

Strengthening FYEG-EGP ties is not a one-woman show. It is a team effort. As FYEG Representative to the EGP, I will be working closely together with the FYEG Secretary General, FYEG Member Organisations, the FYEG Office and the three next FYEG ECs. Additionally, I expect the next EGP Committee to comprise (hopefully several!) former FYEG-ers who likewise care deeply about the Federation and with whom I will collaborate closely. Together, we can take a strategic approach.

As I shape this new position I am always happy to take more suggestions and ideas on board - just reach out to me.

Advocating for FYEG as an organisation

Bringing the young Green perspective to EGP

Providing continuity in the EGP-focused work of FYEG

Be a link between FYEG and EGP - not just at the leadership level

Advocating for FYEG as an organisation

The results of the EU elections in June will create challenges for the European green space. This will require more effective use of our resources and make choosing the right candidate for this position even more crucial in amplifying our green message. The FYEG already has a constructive relationship with the EGP on matters like our financial resources as well as the sharing of office space. But, I believe we can and should go further, particularly in areas in which it is necessary to advocate for the FYEG's interests. As part of the EGP committee, I will make sure that the FYEG is taken seriously and included more. It is important that the FYEG is allowed appropriate space at EGP events. This means that the planning of EGP congresses actively involve the FYEG, inviting young greens to more events and missions and including our federation in decisions on resources. I will make sure that we have not just a seat on the Committee but a voice.

Bringing the young Green perspective to EGP

My advocacy will not just focus on material resources, time, and space allocated to FYEG, but also focus on bringing the young Green perspective to the EGP. It is good and right that FYEG and EGP have political positions that are distinct. But it is also the job of a youth organisation to push its mother party and to not be complacent. Additionally, when it comes to the concrete functioning of the organisation, there are several areas where I consider FYEG to be further in its thinking than the EGP, for example when it comes to its work on inclusion and anti-racism. We also have seen that there are sometimes specific events that unfold at the level of the EGP or the European Parliament where it is necessary for FYEG to have a strong voice. In these areas, I will make sure we push the EGP further. Finally, when it comes to political decisions taken by EGP, for example on the admission or expulsion of Member Parties, I will ensure EGP always includes a youth perspective and considers the position of the respective FYEG member organisation.



Providing continuity in the EGP-focused work of FYEG

The Secretary General of FYEG as well as the Co-spokespeople of FYEG usually all follow the work of the EGP to a certain extent. The Secretary General of FYEG is in regular contact with the EGP Secretary General and Co-spokespeople usually have the right to attend EGP Committee meetings (with a few exceptions). However, for all three following the work of the EGP is only a part of their job next to many other issues they have to deal with. As I will be focused exclusively on the EGP and will have a mandate that is longer than the mandate of FYEG co-spokespeople, I will be able to provide continuity and substantive support to FYEG's EGP-focused work. For example, I will be able to notice immediately and flag when there are developments at the EGP level that will also affect FYEG. I will also be able to attend EGP Committee meetings from which Co-spokespeople and FYEG Secretary General are excluded and give FYEG a sense of where certain discussions and developments are headed. In my role as representative to the FYEG, I will work in close collaboration and in constant exchange with the FYEG Secretary-General as well as the next three FYEG ECs.

Be a link between FYEG and EGP - not just at the leadership level

I love FYEG and the spaces it creates, including its statutory meetings or educational events. In my new position, I will continue to be present at FYEG events. It is important to me that I will maintain strong ties not just to FYEG's political leadership, but also to its membership. I will give event participants and activists insights into the work of the EGP and be a contact point for anyone who wants to know more. By doing this, I will contribute to a better understanding of the EGP and how things work at the European level - in the best case, I hope that I will be able to show FYEG activists what political levers they have in certain situations. This will also give FYEG Member Organisations suggestions and ideas on how to manage relations with their mother parties. I further expect this to be helpful for my own work, as it will give me an opportunity to regular interact not just with FYEG leadership but FYEG membership and see for myself what FYEG-ers around Europe currently care about.



Christina Kessler

EDUCATION

University of Oxford (Oxford, United Kingdom) **2020 - 2021**

MSc Global Governance and Diplomacy

- *Selected Courses: Qualitative and Quantitative Research Methods, Global Governance and Diplomacy, International Law*
- *Thesis: "How the European Union and Germany Perceive China"*

College of Europe (Bruges, Belgium) **2019 - 2020**

MA Political and European Governance Studies

Scholarship by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research

- *Selected Courses: Politics and Policies of the EU, EU Environmental and Climate Policy, The Political Economy of European Integration, EU Foreign Policy: Context and Priorities*

Amsterdam University College (Amsterdam, Netherlands) **2016 - 2019**

BA (Hons) Liberal Arts and Sciences

- *Politics and International Relations*
- *Minor in Media and Communication*

Exchange National University of Singapore (Singapore) **08/2018 - 12/2018**

EXPERIENCE

Centre for European Reform (UK and Belgium) **since 10/2023**

Clara Marina O'Donnell Fellow

- *Conducting in-depth research on European foreign and security policy (with a focus on relations with China and the Indo-Pacific) and the 2024 European Parliament elections.*
- *Crafting and disseminating policy recommendations through written publications.*
- *Representing the Centre for European Reform in various public forums, including roundtables and panel discussions.*

NATO HQ (Belgium) **03/2023 - 08/2023**

Intern in the Office of the Secretary-General - Policy Planning Unit

- *Conducting in-depth research and developing policy papers on topics relevant to NATO.*
- *Drafting briefing notes and background papers for PPU and the Office of the Secretary General.*
- *Planning and implementing events organized by PPU, including the conceptualization and program development as well as the planning of logistics.*

European Green Party (Belgium) **12/2021 - 01/2023**

Assistant to the Secretary-General

- *Assisting the Secretary General in implementing projects under their responsibility, as well as preparatory and follow-up work of meetings and work missions.*
- *Conducting research and providing briefings for the work of the Secretary General.*
- *Supporting adequate information flow on the activities of the Secretary General to different units within the EGP.*

Green Group in the European Parliament and FYEG (Belgium) 09/2021 - 12/2021
Joint Communications Internship

- *Drafting and compiling of briefings.*
- *Conceptualisation and implementation of communications strategy.*
- *Event organisation.*

European Commission, German Representation (Germany) 06/2018 - 07/2018
Internship Press Office

- *Drafting press releases and briefings.*
- *Creating content for the social media channels of the Commission.*
- *Conducting background research.*

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Federation of Young European Greens

Executive Committee	since 2022
Editorial Board of FYEG's magazine	2021 - 2022
Member of the Political Platform Committee	2020 - 2021
Working Group Member and Coordinator	2017 - 2019

Young Professionals in Foreign Policy (YFPF) 2024

Selected for the [Rising Experts programme](#)

Student Association for Gender Equality (College of Europe) 2019 - 2020
Social Media

European Student Think Tank 2018 - 2019
Communication and Social Media

LANGUAGES

German	English	French
Native Speaker	Proficient (C2)	Intermediate (B1)

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- Between competition and co-operation: How to engage with China on climate ([Centre for European Reform, June 2024](#))
- Germany's Defense Engagement in the Indo-Pacific Is a Balancing Act ([The Diplomat, June 2024](#))
- Has the EU turned to the right? ([British Foreign Policy Group, June 2024](#))
- What will the EU election results mean for Europe? ([Co-Author, Centre for European Reform, June 2024](#))
- A Sea of Troubles: Addressing the EU's Incoherence on the Indo-Pacific ([Centre for European Reform, January 2024](#))
- Indo-Pacific Calling: Where is the US heading and what does it mean for Europe? ([Heinrich Böll Stiftung, January 2024](#))
- The CDU must not draw the wrong lessons from the Bavarian and Hessian elections ([LSE European Politics and Policy, October 2023](#))

Report of the Selection Committee for the position of FYEG representative to the Committee of the European Green Party

Background

The FYEG representative to the Committee of the European Green Party is a position created in the context of the renovation of the Rule Book of the EGP in 2023. The elected person will be ratified by the EGP Congress, and their mandate will last until the end of the mandate of the newly elected EGP Committee (2.5 to 3 years, depending on the dates of the Congresses). Until now, the cospokes and/or Secretary-General of FYEG have been invited to the EGP Committee meetings. They could voice the Young Greens' demands and priorities during these meetings, take part in the discussions, but not vote. By including a person elected by FYEG in its Committee, the Young Greens will now be represented with full rights, and will have the mandate to fully follow the processes of the Committee in line with the FYEG positions, but also bring a youth angle to the other tasks that the EGP Committee takes on during the mandate.

While FYEG's IRPs offer a set of guidelines to ensure liaison between the member of the Committee and the leadership and membership base of the organisation (namely, attending at least one EC retreat, participating in other EC meetings upon request, and submitting a report to the GA), the elected person for this term will have to work with the Secretary-General and the EC in order to explore and set up convenient avenues of communication, collaboration and accountability. This position can have a great impact not only on ensuring the relevance of the youth perspective in the EGP, but also on the European Green family as a whole: the person elected by FYEG will be effectively a member of the political leadership of the European Green Party, assuming other responsibilities besides the liaison with and representation of FYEG.

The FYEG representative to the EGP Committee is elected by the full member organisations of the organisation during the General Assembly, as established in the IRPs: chapter '2. General Assembly', title '2.2. Powers'. However, following the process detailed in 'Application Requirements & Procedures for Candidates' detailed in the Annex 1 of the IRPs, a special selection committee is established prior to the GA in order to assess the candidates' experiences and skills. This Selection Committee (SC) shall consist of four members: a current or former member of the Executive Committee, a current or former Secretary-General, a current or former Co-Spokes and one person representing a full MO. The SC assesses the received applications by reviewing the submitted candidacies and offering interviews if deemed necessary. It produces a recommendation to the GA which the GA may or may not take into consideration in their vote. The final decision is left with the GA.

Process

The Executive Committee has appointed the following Selection Committee:

- **Marie Stadler:** Former FYEG Treasurer. Scotland (she/her)
- **Vilma Jaatinen:** Member of Vihreät Nuoret. Finland (they/them)
- **Özgecan Kara:** Former Secretary General of FYEG. Türkiye (she/her)
- **Stefanie De Bock:** Former FYEG Co-Spokesperson. Belgium (she/her)

The call for the FYEG representative was published on 28th of May, with a deadline of 11th of July 2024. One application was received. The application contained all the required documents and was sent through the appropriate channels within the deadline, therefore deemed admissible. The SC reviewed the documents submitted by the applicant and set up a meeting to exchange their views and come up with a conclusion.

The Assessment and Conclusion below is the result of the discussion among the members of the SC.

Assessment

- Christina Kessler has been involved with FYEG since 2017, notably as an Executive Committee member since 2022,
- She has worked for the European Green Party as an assistant to the Secretary-General for one year in 2022 and in her role she has attended the Committee meetings so she is aware what is expected from a Committee member,
- She has attended EGP statutory events as a staff member and later as a FYEG delegate so she knows EGP processes and member organisations,
- She is well versed in FYEG's political positions and is in a position to defend them in her role as a Committee member
- Her vision portrays a positive look on how to fulfil her obligations as a Committee member representing FYEG and it is particularly important given that she will be the first person in this role
- She is in a good position to be in continuous contact with the FYEG Executive Committee and the Secretary-General and update them from the happenings in the EGP Committee and receive their input and feedback.

We believe Christina Kessler is motivated and would be a good fit for FYEG's representative in the EGP Committee. We would like to remind her to keep the activist spirit of FYEG alive in her time as the EGP Committee member.

Conclusion

The Selection Committee has decided to **endorse** Christina Kessler for the position of FYEG representative in the EGP Committee.