

EC3 Klāvs Veseļuns

Agenda item: 3. Candidates for Executive Committee

Introduction

I am Klāvs (he/him) and I am a 22-year-old climate and human rights activist, ecosocialist, and queer from Latvia. Since May 2023, I have been an FYEG EC member. During this mandate, I have been responsible for the Balkan and East regions. I am highly motivated to continue my work on expanding the FYEG and to continue working on supporting our member organizations throughout Europe. In short, if elected my priorities for the upcoming mandate:

- Expanding the influence from FYEG and all regions in the Greens
- The expansion of FYEG
- FYEG, which works with member organizations and partners

However, I strongly recommend reading my motivation letter and vision statement to get the full picture of my goals for the mandate. In case you have any questions, feel free to reach out to me at klavs.veseluns@fyeg.org/klavsveseluns@gmail.com or [@klavsves](https://www.telegram.com) on Telegram



Member Organisation:
Protests - Latvia

Supporters

Kristiana Bruce (Protests); Egle Olesk (Noored Rohelised); Alyona Sherekhora (Green Youth of Ukraine); Anna Winkelmann Larios (Joves Ecosocialistes); Vilma Jaatinen (Vihreät Nuoret); Renata Liliana Anetska (Ostra Zieleń); Filip Janković (Zelena omladina Srbije - Green Youth of Serbia); Ana Apakidze (Young Greens of Georgia); Nora Axberg (Grön Ungdom); Axel Grima (Kollettiv Žgħażagħ EkoXellugin)

Motivation letter

Dear Young Greens,

I am Klāvs (he/him) and I am a 22-year-old climate and human rights activist, ecosocialist, and queer from Latvia. In my professional life, I work as a parliamentary assistant in the Parliament of Latvia on environmental and climate policy. For the past mandate as an Executive Committee (EC) member of FYEG, I have been responsible for the Balkan and East member organizations, the Green Rave, and the European Train Tour.

I have been extremely honored to represent FYEG and its member organizations for the past year. Therefore, I will use my motivation letter and vision statement to reflect on my work and outline what I believe should be achieved in the next mandate.

At the start of my mandate, I invited all member organizations I am responsible for to have a call with me to understand their needs and wishes for this mandate. This mandate was highly dominated by the European Parliament elections. However, as the member organizations that I am responsible for are from non-EU countries, I tried to balance their needs and political context with the biggest FYEG European Parliament campaign ever. I ensured that FYEG communicated about, for example, Sakartvelo, Belarus, Ukraine, and Serbia, often in busy communication periods.

My work during this mandate was not limited to our current member organizations. Even before being active in the FYEG as a board member of Protests, the Latvian Young Greens, I developed connections with Estonian Young Greens which materialized into them joining FYEG more than a year later.

Before my candidacy for the FYEG EC last year, I also started developing connections between Protests and the Lithuanian Democrats Youth Wing. Their mother party recently joined the European Green Party (EGP) and just elected their first MEP to the European Parliament. After being elected to the FYEG EC my work with them did not stop. Although I am not responsible for the North region and did not live in Latvia for most of my mandate, I met with them in person twice and kept a close connection with them to help them in their application process for membership in FYEG.

Motivation letter

In the regions I am responsible for, I also worked on getting two new member organizations for FYEG in Croatia and Bulgaria. I attended the EGP's fact-finding mission in Croatia to visit the green-left party Možemo before they applied for EGP membership. There I met with the Možemo Youth working group that has been fighting with their mother party to allow them to form an independent youth wing and to join FYEG. I made sure that the Možemo application report to the EGP clearly states that their attitude toward the Možemo Youth working group is unacceptable. Throughout my mandate, I have continued working with the Možemo Youth working group and I am in contact with the EGP to help FYEG gain a progressive and leftist member organization from Croatia.

Likewise, I have also helped the Bulgarian Green Party's youth wing to start setting up a formal organization. I met with them in person and discussed what paths they may take to achieve independence from their mother party. In addition, I kept close contact with them and gave advice when necessary to help them start in the challenging political context. This gave them the basis to work with and led to them establishing a youth wing.

Similarly, I am keeping a close look at the developments in Romania after their progressive, pro-LGBTQIA+ independent incumbent Greens/EFA Member of the European Parliament Nicu got reelected thanks to also massive youth engagement in his campaign and I am hoping that we can soon get a truly progressive Romanian member organization.

My experience and contacts in member organizations and the EGP will be helpful for another mandate. I believe this is important, as the upcoming mandate will be very short, less than a year long. I am ready to start working hard on my vision from day one and to help the new EC members quickly adapt to the very specific work environment in FYEG. Thus, I am kindly asking member organizations to consider supporting me and my vision for FYEG.

In solidarity for a Green future,

Klāvs (he/him)



Vision statement

The European Parliament campaign has ended and we are in a completely different Europe. In a Europe, where the radical and far-right can get in power. In a Europe that has punished Greens for overly pragmatic policies in governments and moving away from our fundamental values. In a Europe that is not doing enough to stop the genocide and Israeli war crimes in Gaza and the West Bank. In a Europe that is still not doing enough to stop the Russian genocide of Ukrainians. In a Europe that continues making fossil fuel deals with authoritarian regimes that violate human rights and commit ethnic cleansing.

As Young Greens, we must continue to be the voice of morality. We must hold our mother parties and the group accountable to ensure that they do not fuck us over in compromises. Now that the Greens will be in the leading coalition in the EU, we must tirelessly push for things that matter to us. But we can only do that successfully if FYEG remains strong, united, and deeply connected to our member organizations.

The expansion of influence from underrepresented regions and FYEG in the Greens

Even though we lost seats in the European Parliament, we must also be happy about the wins we gained. We won in Denmark. We expanded to the East and South and gained representation in Croatia, Slovenia, Lithuania, and Latvia. We kept a seat in Romania despite the difficult circumstances. We got three young candidates from the FYEG Young Candidates Platform elected, including the outgoing co-spokesperson of FYEG Benni. However, the existing power dynamics in the Greens still do not acknowledge this change in regional balance. For example, both leading candidates were from Western Europe, while Southern and Eastern European candidates also ran.

We will have a new role in the upcoming European Parliament mandate. That gives us better chances than ever to push for things that matter to us by working together with the Greens/EFA group. However, we have seen in several member organizations that their mother party being in power often means compromising on our core values. Thus, if elected for the following mandate, I would ensure that we continue to lobby for things that we want to change by constructively working with the EGP and Group. While being critical of political compromises that are unacceptable to us, e.g., on human rights, climate, biodiversity, youth, or migrants' rights.

Vision statement

The expansion of FYEG

FYEG still lacks member organizations from several countries. During my mandate, I have pushed forward the process to expand FYEG. However, this process requires much longer time than just one mandate. If I were elected for another mandate, I would continue my work on our potential member organizations in the North, South, and Balkan regions.

I see major prospects in Denmark, and Lithuania, where we already have established organizations that are connected to their mother parties. While in many other countries, we have Green parties and youth organizations that are slowly gaining ground. And then we have parties that are explicitly blocking any chances of their youth wings being established although they have a group of young people fighting for that. There is no simple solution to solve all of those issues that young greens face. But if elected, I would continue working with the region responsible to help our potential member organizations grow closer to FYEG.

FYEG, which works with member organizations and partners

Member organizations and our sister organization CDN are extremely important to FYEG. This mandate allowed me to understand our long-term systematic problems in our engagement with our Eastern member organizations and CDN. In the upcoming mandate, we must set up long-term plans for proactively working with these organizations, while respecting their often lower capacities and higher burnout risk. At the core of this plan must be the organizations themselves, as they are the most aware of their needs and capacities. During the EC task assignment, the responsibility over the Eastern MOs must be assigned as a higher capacity job than it was until now. We must change our working style with CDN, which is extremely important for raising their and our member organization capacities and publicity. I believe that our current collaboration has been quite distant from CDN, although we started working on bringing us closer in the later part of this mandate.

At the same time, we must ensure that our member organizations are truly progressive and green. FYEG member organizations have many different opinions on many issues, as political contexts are widely different from Lisbon to Baku. Yet we have a distinct ideology that puts people, climate, and equality first. I find it deeply upsetting that we have a candidate member organization that is self-proclaiming going against the woke ideology or puts in its statutes after joining FYEG that they support a marriage between only a man and a woman and Christian values. I believe such organizations have no place in the FYEG family.

Klāvs Veseluns (he/him)

Environmental and Climate Policy

LinkedIn Profile:
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Work Experience



Executive Committee Member | Young European Greens

May 2023 to Present

- Coordinating East and Balkan regions
- Providing political input
- Work with relevant stakeholders

Parliamentary Assistant | Parliament of Latvia

January 2023 to Present

- Policy research on climate and environment
- Work with relevant stakeholders
- Administrative work

International Secretary | Youth Organization "Protests"

January 2023 to May 2023

- Managing the international relations of "Protests"

Climate and Environmental Advisor | UN Youth Delegate Program of Latvia

February 2022 to December 2022

- Advising the delegate on environment and climate

Board Member | Youth Organization "Protests"

January 2021 to January 2022

- Drafting the political platform
- Formalizing procedures

Education



BSc in Environmental Policy | Wageningen University and Research

Class of 2024

Specialization in environmental and climate policy and governance

Skills & Specialization

- Social media
- Video editing
- Policy analysis
- Data analysis

Volunteer Work and Affiliations

European Parliament Election Volunteer | The Progressives
2024

Climate Ambassador | WWF Latvia
2024

Co-Chair of the Youth Politics Working Group | The Progressives
2022 to 2023

Co-Chair of the Environmental Working Group | Youth Organization "Protests"
2022 to 2023

COP27 Delegate | Young European Greens
2022

Parliamentary Election Campaign Volunteer | The Progressives
2022

Languages

Latvian | C2

English | C1

German | A2



Riga, July 1st, 2024

Dear Young European Greens,

On behalf of Protests, I'm excited to announce our nomination of Klāvs Veselūns for a second term on the Executive Committee of the Young European Greens.

In his first term, Klāvs showed incredible dedication, hard work, and competence. He played a key role in expanding FYEG, organized the European train tour stop in Riga, and co-coordinated the Green Rave. His efforts have greatly contributed to the energy and reach of FYEG.

Klāvs has been deeply involved with Protests, having served on the board, led a working group, and played a central role in developing our mother party's program for the European elections. His diverse experience and unwavering commitment have made a big impact – both within Protests and FYEG.

Klāvs embodies the perfect mix of being strong-willed, cooperative, and motivated, driving positive change within FYEG. We're confident that his continued participation will further boost the committee's effectiveness and influence.

We fully support Klāvs's candidacy for a second term and believe he will continue to be a valuable asset to the Executive Committee.

Yours sincerely,
Beāte Anna Klepere
Spokesperson of the board,
Protests