

Political Platform

Proposer: FYEG EC

Title: PP1 A4: Political Platform

Political Platform text

From line 1042 to 1066:

makes social protection a priority and values the care work, accomplished mainly by women, for people and the environment.

20. A degrowth transition towards post-growth economies

Given that the fulfilment of universal human needs (see Glossary 180) and the conditions for wellbeing globally cannot be realised under the current economic system based on growth and capital accumulation, FYEG stands for degrowth as a post-capitalist strategy towards a post-growth society. Degrowth is a planned reduction of energy and material use designed to bring the economy back into balance with the living world in a way that reduces inequality and improves human well-being, at the local and global level, in the short and long term (see Glossary 36). The goal of degrowth is to reduce ecological impact, reduce inequality, and improve well-being. In contrast with degrowth, recessions are not planned, and do not target any of these outcomes. They are not intended to reduce ecological impact (even though this might in some cases be an unintended outcome), and they are certainly not intended to reduce inequality and improve well-being – indeed, they do the opposite. Economies that exceed the ecological capacities of the planet, as the ones in Europe, have to be restructured such that they can decelerate justly, without the suffering that recessions bring. Nevertheless, there are some regions in Europe that are more responsible for exceeding planetary boundaries and whose current ecological footprint is higher, which are the ones that have to degrow more and faster. The downscaling of less-necessary forms of production such as fossil fuels, fast fashion,

industrial farming or luxury goods, entails liberating productive capacities that can be redirected to activities that contribute to human and environmental wellbeing, such as clean energy, essential services, agroecology and care.

Economic growth measured by GDP has to be abandoned as a policy objective. Policy has instead to focus on ecosocial metrics such as life expectancy, health, education, housing, and ecologically sustainable work as indicators of both ecosystems and human well-being. The strong evidence of the impossibility of decoupling economic growth from ecological impacts at the pace and scale required, points to the need to address the situation from a post-growth paradigm, with a necessary phase of degrowth in economies that are above the regenerative capacity of the planet.

Degrowth is a demand for effective decolonization. Countries in the global south should be free to organise their resources and labour around meeting human needs rather than around servicing Northern growth. Historically, the industrial growth in Europe and the subsequent expansion and industrialisation of its colonies were significantly facilitated by the pattern of appropriating raw materials, natural resources, and labour from the Global South through what has been named as ecological unequal exchange. Even following the withdrawal of colonial troops, the fundamental structure of the colonial economy endures, sustaining growth in the North through the continued appropriation, exploitation, and oppression of the South.

Degrowth is a transition towards post-growth economies because the reduction in production and consumption is a means to create the conditions for the transformation of the modes of living. The destination is a post-growth society characterised by an economy in an harmonious relation with nature where it is possible to thrive without growth. Policies such as universal basic services, universal basic income or universal care income, working time reduction and a green job guarantee among others could play a key role in creating the universal security of livelihoods during the process of transition, accompanied by policies that democratically enact ecological limits with social justice, such as caps on material and energy use, caps on income and wealth and flight quotas among others.

~~20. Alternative models to unlimited growth~~

~~Economics should not prioritise economic growth, profit, and consumption, but rather human well-being and welfare. The indicators currently used by economists fail to take social and environmental factors into account. We therefore think it is time to develop new indicators which factor in environmental degradation and economic inequality. The~~

~~genuine progress indicator (GPI) (see Glossary 75), for instance, measures overall quality of life rather than just economic progress, and takes into account the needs of individuals and their environment.~~

~~A market model creates privately owned and monopolised resources while alternative economic models, such as “doughnut economics” (see Glossary 41), degrowth (see Glossary 36), and the Economy for the Common Good (see Glossary 44), provide a system which is sustainable, fair, and just.~~

~~We need to look at the economy in a new way, dismantling the myth of unlimited growth, putting an end to excessive capital accumulation, and prioritising a redistribution of wealth and production factors. We strive to use the European Green Deal to recover from the current crisis in a sustainable way: to foster a circular economy, economic security and certainty, and gender equality, and to bring about the destruction of the gendered division of labour.~~

~~Intergenerational and intragenerational equity are also fundamental social values for a green and feminist economy.~~

~~For governments, economic policies must be guided by the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement and the UN's 2030 Agenda (see Glossary 171) for Sustainable Development, not by the pursuit of endless economic growth.~~

Reason

This amendment is part of a overall suggestion from the Beyond Growth Platform after the revision of the Political Platform. The amendments were submitted as an only amendment to the text, but were re-submitted separately to facilitate the debate during the GA.

The amendments are in line with the resolution on Degrowth (R5) tabled by the EC following the request of the Beyond Growth Platform.