

EC6 Renzo Gort

Agenda item: 3. Candidates for Executive Committee

Introduction

Hey all, my name is Renzo (he/they) and I am 21 years old. I live in the Netherlands and am a member of DWARS (Dutch Young Greens). I work as a software developer and next to that I love to read, walk in nature, and occasionally do some gaming (mostly Transport Fever, because you know, TRAINS).

I am standing as EC member because I like to help this organisation, which has been a pleasure to be part of in the last year. I hope we can bring each other forward next year by inspiring each other and by strengthening our community. For some more concrete thoughts on that, see my vision, or just walk to me at the GA :)

I am looking forward to seeing you all in Dublin, see you then <3



Member Organisation:
DWARS, GroenLinkse Jongeren -
Netherlands

Supporters

Saúl Lara (Juventud Verde)

Renzo Gort



Hello all lovely Young Greens,

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It's my honour to present myself as a candidate for the executive committee of FYEG. It has only been about a year ago that I had my first experience with this beautiful organisation, but it feels like forever already. I've met so many lovely people from all over Europe and I hope I can do my part in helping our movement.

A bit about me

For the people who don't me yet, I am Renzo, I am 21 years old and live in Hoorn, a small city in the north-west of the Netherlands. I love reading books, listening to music, taking walks in nature (I should do it more often) and most of all to paint my hair. During the day I work as a web-developer at a small company which develops software to inspect all kinds of items.

It has only been 3 years since I really came in contact with politics. That was at the general elections of 2021. It was the first time I was allowed to vote and also the first time I really looked in to what politics is and what it means. Before 2021 I never really thought of that. Back home we don't really talk about politics, and growing up in a town meant that the views that I was subjected to weren't exactly left-wing. Luckily it was still quite liberal, but because of were I grew up I know how easy it can be to believe in the things the right and far-right are saying. It was completely normal to like things like 'zwarte piet' (blackface), and politicians like Mark Rutte and Geert Wilders.

This is exactly what motivates me, making left and green values normal again. We can probably all see it, the values of the people who vote for right wing parties aren't necessarily the same as the far-right. I think that often they are even more aligned with ours than we sometimes think. I see it in my friends or family members, while they have often quite liberal values, they are often stuck in the narratives of the right. That's why I like that we did focus on migration last election, not to repeat their narrative, but to counter it with our own.





Young Greens

Most of the experience I have is within the Dutch young greens, DWARS. I became a member 2,5 years ago and have since done numerous things. I have been a board member of the local DWARS Amsterdam chapter and have been active in multiple committees. I have also done things within FYEG, but I will come to that a bit later.

My first 'real' experience was in the local board of DWARS Amsterdam. There, as board member politics, I helped with the organisation of multiple activities. Back then it was all still quite new, but I learned quite a lot in that year. While attending the meetings of the GroenLinks Amsterdam group, I saw the struggles between being idealistic and being in a coalition with other parties. While often the council members wanted more, it was sometimes just not possible. At the same time you only see the things that have been agreed on in the media and the reactions to it on social media. I think we can do more against this image, by communicating better what we think, even if that isn't what has been agreed upon. By explaining what we did and why we did it, I think we can take away a bit of the frustration of defending something you actually also wanted to see differently.

One example where this was also visible was with a new proposal on the regulation of rental rooms in the city. In that proposal, the requirement that each renter should get their own individual rental agreement was scrapped. Meaning that renters could get into problems when their roommates have problems, like not being able to pay the rent. With this proposal we, DWARS Amsterdam, worked together with the local student unions to keep the requirement, together with some other things. After we made a statement together and lobbied via different routes, the requirement was not scrapped.





After a year in Amsterdam, I was secretary of two national committees. The first one is the international activities committee where, as the name suggests, we organise international activities. I think this one is quite relevant for what we do with FYEG. You can see that the prices for things like food and places to sleep keep rising. Making organising a trip abroad sometimes more difficult than you would like. One other thing that I noticed is that communications with local young greens can sometimes be a bit hard. I see a role here for FYEG, not that we need to do those communications, but rather build such a network of young greens that it becomes easy to be in contact.

The second committee is the topic-based economics committee (see this more as like a working group, but we also have working groups which are different in nature making it hard to find the right word, ugh..). In this committee we discuss the current events, make articles, organise activities, and make amendments for political platforms or manifestos. Last year we were lucky by having two elections and a update of our own DWARS political platform, meaning we have made amendments to those platforms all year long. It's interesting to see how words have so much meaning, write the same point in different words and it has a different weight. It's something to keep in mind, while discussing current events or making amendments, but especially while making amendments or resolutions about controversial topics. It's hard to find a balance to using strong wording and respecting other viewpoints. It's something to keep in mind, for example while discussing topics like Palestine or Ukraine. I see it as a job for all of us, to keep reminding ourselves and each other of the fact that we are all human beings. Be kind to each other. <3

Young European Greens

I promised to talk a bit about the experiences within FYEG, and here it is. This experience is one of the key reasons I am writing this motivation at all. Working together with all of you during the last campaign was something I will not easily forget. I value the support given from the office and EC while working in our different teams. I definitely think it is something we should continue doing. I have viewed the Green Base as a place where we connect and work together, apart from our collective Discord struggles.





As a team leader of the digital organising team (or digital campaigning team, I aren't sure which one it is till this date) I helped with the digital actions that we did, together with our lovely volunteers. The first petition on the rights of women and LGBTQIA+ migrants, asylum seekers and refugees was a lot of figuring out what to do and how to do it. But I think we have learned a lot from it, which helped with the actions that we did after that. I thank the office and the EC, in special Vita and Sean, for the awesome working together. I think here especially about the email action to ban arms exports to Israel, in which we sent more than 1100 emails to Ursula von der Leyen, wishing her that the email finds her horribly. The discussions on what to include, within the framework set out by the EC, and which tone we would use in the texts was nice, civil, and constructive. I think this is 1 of the best examples on how we can work together on topics with a high emotional charge, even if we don't agree on everything.

What should we be?

This leads me to the final part of this motivation, what should we be? I think we fulfil multiple roles as a European political youth organisation. It's a place where we can all come together, online and psychically. We learn from each others experiences and have the greatest amounts of fun. Next to that we have the political part. We lobby within our mother party and try to work together, but we also try to lobby outside of our party. We work together with other organisations to form alliances, making statements and pressure the status quo from the inside and outside. We make our own statements based on the things that we find important and with our own narrative. At last we have our people. We provide education, internships and jobs. With those we can provide amazing opportunities and learning experiences. We try to get our own young candidates elected, and work together to make our voice heard.

But this is not enough. I think that seeing it as separate parts is not enough. The parts don't work without each other. By becoming a even bigger and more active community, it gets more inviting to do political stuff. By having young people in parliaments we create the representation that is needed for other people to put themselves forward as candidates. It's all dependent on each other, which is lovely and scary at the same time.





How do you end these things really? Anyway, I hope you have been able to get to know me a bit better, about what motivates me, about what my experience are, and how I connect those to our beautiful organisation. Feel free to contact me for any questions, even if they are just about my favourite books or who I think is the best artist.

With a lot of hope, energy and hugs,

Renzo

I have some space left over, so here are some book recommendations :))

- The long way to a small, angry planet, by Becky Chambers. It's a lovely sci-fi that brings together space travel, friendship, and found family.
- All that's left in the world, by Erik J. Brown. A sweet post-apocalyptic story about two boys who travel along the east coast of the USA.
- Regarding the pain of others, by Susan Sontag. I haven't had the chance to read this one myself yet, but from reading a few snippets in a book from a friend of mine, I can already say that it's going to be good. The book itself is about how images of war and violence affect us and our thinking.

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Vision



Renzo Gort

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Hello, and welcome to my vision for FYEG. It's not complete, and it shouldn't be as it is merely my own thoughts. I'm hoping to expand on it in the coming year, working together with everyone, so feel free to reach out :))

Solidarity on all levels

One of our most important values is solidarity. Solidarity with each other and those in other parts of the world. We learn from one another's viewpoints and arguments, and use those experiences to adapt and improve our own. This way we inspire each other to always stand for that what is right.

I think this viewpoint is the corner stone of our European organisation, we try to look further than our own national borders. Yet, it is also difficult. It is hard to determine what to focus on. Sometimes it is hard to learn from others before you need to make a statement. Despite this, I think that FYEG can be the organisation that always thinks of and with others to adapt our stances on all kinds of topics. Where it is the norm to reach out to Southern and Eastern MOs and enable our MOs to do the same. Yet we also should take into account the capacity of our underrepresented and smaller MOs. It would be good to setup a structure that incentivize communication between the EC and MOs on political topics, preferably on a frequent but low demanding way.

Communication, understanding and transparency

One of the things that is really important is communications. Without it we are useless, because if nobody knows what we do, we are standing alone. We are already doing a great job with Instagram where we post regularly about a diverse range of topics. One thing I would add is more cooperation with our MOs to get more reach and visibility to our members. But there is more than Instagram, we have started really using emails, with the building of lists through email actions and petitions. This is something I would continue as it is going quite well.





Something I would like to add to our communications is more internal communications. Communications about the lobby to EGP, what we are doing on certain topics, and what things are happening within FYEG. Certain things are confidential and can therefore not be communicated, however we can look into ways in which we can share what we are lobbying on and with which intends. Because if we don't communicate on our lobby, our members don't know that we are doing it. By communicating on it, members feel included and can even reach out if they have valuable knowledge on the topic, strengthening our arguments. With this we shouldn't be scared to publicly criticize our mother party, not by kicking them to the ground but by providing our view on current events or strategies.

Community

The last pillar in this vision is our community. They have shown up in the previous two pillars, and with good reason. Without our members we are nowhere. Like we have done in the EU24 campaign we can use our community to expand the things that we can do. We gather new ideas, energy and knowledge. That's why I liked that we have setup the Green Base, which we should continue and make an integral part of FYEG. In the Green Base we should look into ways we can spark more discussions on all topics, to a degree where it is weird if certain news or events aren't shared there.

The Green Base creates an opportunity for more members to be actively engaged with FYEG, even if they don't have a lot of time. One thing we should watch out for is the fact that bonding online can be hard, so we should put extra energy into including everyone in the conversations.

One last part of our community is getting people inside FYEG. Too often I notice within my own MO that people maybe know that FYEG exists, but not what we do or how they can become active. I think it would be good to promote our working groups more as they are now not really that visible. Next to that I would love to see some more working groups so we have more places where members can become active and do something that interests them. With that I would also like to see that it becomes more accessible to join the working groups, by for example not requiring a whole application phase, but just a few questions to see if you are a member and what your contact details are.





Nothing of this vision is set in stone, and I would love to discuss all the different parts of this vision. Together we can make so much more happen. So if you have any questions or suggestions, don't hesitate to contact me.

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Green greetings,
Renzo



Renzo Gort

(he/him, they/them)

Experience within the Young Greens

BOARD MEMBER - POLITICS 2022-2023

DWARS Amsterdam

Organized several formal and informal activities in and around Amsterdam.
Attended the meetings of the local GroenLinks group to lobby for DWARS.
Made a statement together with multiple youth organizations (political and student unions) about a new proposal on rental housing.

COMMITTEE SECRETARY 2023-2024

DWARS, Economics Committee

Helped with amending the two election programs of GroenLinks-PvdA and the new DWARS political platform on economic themes.
Helped with the internal discussions on current events.

COMMITTEE SECRETARY 2023-present

DWARS, International Activities Committee

Organized two trips, one to Brussels and one to Strasbourg.
Helped with the internal organization (permanent schedule, documenting lessons from past trips etc.).

TEAM LEADER 2023-2024

FYEG, Digital Organizing

Helped with the copy writing of the petitions, social media posts and email actions in EU24 campaign.

Working experience

SEVERAL TULIP COMPANIES 2014-2019

SOFTWARE DEVELOPER 2019-present

GreenMarks B.V.

Developing a online applications to make inspections.

DWARS, GroenLinkse Jongeren
Sint-Jacobsstraat 12
3511 BS Utrecht
The Netherlands

Federation of Young European Greens
34 Rue du Taciturne
1000 Brussels
Belgium

Utrecht, 22 July 2024

Letter of support for Renzo Gort, Candidate-Executive Committee Member

Dear Federation of Young European Greens,

DWARS, GroenLinkse Jongeren, fully endorses the candidacy of Renzo Gort as candidate for the Executive Committee of the Federation of Young European Greens.

Renzo has been a very well-known member of DWARS for quite some time, even though their DWARS journey started not so long ago. He has been on the board of DWARS Amsterdam, the international activities committee and he was the secretary of the economics committee (a working group). The economics committee, under Renzo their leadership, has had a tremendous impact on the political line of DWARS. Their committee has made multiple positive amendments to the political program and manifestos.

Renzo is a very easy-going person who can be very laid back but also very knowledgeable about specific topics, such as privacy and politics. He has used this knowledge to improve DWARS by making amendments to the political program and their experience with operating on a local board and lobbying their position with the mother party.

Renzo is running for member of the executive committee as they see a need for the Federation to grow on an organizational level. Something that Renzo also had plans for within DWARS was improving the internal communications. For DWARS he had concrete plans on how to do that, and Renzo has shown that they have a similar vision that he would like to apply to FYEG. Renzo has a clear vision on what he calls one of the most important values, namely solidarity. For us, this is not a new topic from them. Renzo has always advocated for solidarity for all. This is reflected in all the work they have done within DWARS, but also for FYEG. He has worked as the digital campaign team leader on multiple petitions on the rights of women and LGBTQIA+ migrants, asylum seekers and refugees. All of this confirms to us why Renzo would be an excellent choice for EC member, as we need a board that actively promotes and prioritizes solidarity and internal growth for FYEG, and we see that in Renzo.

Therefore, DWARS, GroenLinkse Jongeren sees in Renzo a dedicated EC-member and we are therefore glad to support their candidacy.

In green solidarity,

Soesha Sandker

International Secretary of DWARS, GroenLinkse Jongeren