

C2 Andrej Zlatović

Proposer: Andrej Zlatovic (ZOS)

Agenda item: 1. Candidates for Co-Spokesperson

Introduction

Hello friends, this year I'm running for a second mandate and hoping for you to put your trust in me to be your next Cospokes.

See you in Paris!



Member Organisation:
Zelena Omladina Srbije (Green Youth
of Serbia)

Soyez réalistes, demandez l'impossible

Be realistic, demand the impossible

Dear members of the green family, with this letter I wish to express my motivation to be next co-spokesperson of FYEG. Now in Paris on the 57th anniversary of Mai 68, I want us to once again unite as progressive youths.

The past year has been intense. While my country and everyone around me has stood up, even those that never did so before, I was typing out minutes of meetings and writing amendments. While our national television broadcaster was being blockaded, I was hosting online calls and while illegal weapons were used against protesters, I was visiting FYEG member organisations. This doesn't mean I regret the way I spent my time this year, it just means I need to focus all this energy and time I have in a viable but direct pathway or I will get disillusioned with our efforts, as they benefit those so far away from me, rather than those next to me. The more time passed with all this in my mind, the more I realised how little 'global solidarity' really means to those in desperate need of this solidarity, how much we have forgotten actual theories and strategies of change, and I start to wonder have we been stuck in the liberal capitalist machine for so long that actual effective change seems unachievable.

I clearly remember when earlier this mandate I had the task of debating about local political events. These are situations which landed my friends in jail, however for the other-side, it was a question of finances and party polling. Despite the disbalance, I understand that we both had clear goals and were coming from different realities, but to my core I felt this situation showcased a representation of many of the things we condemn about the current state of the world. It was a clear representation of the ways hierarchy and the oppressive regime we are facing can be invisible and convenient, even useful for political gain in the short-term if left unquestioned. Sadly, I still think we as greens display certain imbalances and I wish to be one of the people to finally shake things up, making the system more horizontal, borrowing from the greens radical democratic traditions.

Now when instead of jail time it is people getting killed, maimed and being active victims of genocide while everyone stays silent, those few voices that speak-up seem so loud. I believe that, as the youth of green anti-war movements to speak the loudest and to be the ones to change the silent narrative, even when it's uncomfortable, even when it's unpleasant. It is this which has kept me active in this political reality of FYEG, which is so often different from my own oppressive, violent and authoritarian reality back home in Serbia. I have tried to bring parts of FYEG back home, bringing the optimism, the ability to organise, the willingness to debate all with good intentions and find solutions where none seem possible. Equivalently, I aim to bring a bit of my home here to FYEG and showcase the struggle of humans unfolding on the EUs doorstep, all the while knowing that it is a fraction of what others in the global south face on a daily basis.

In the last year, I did my best never to stay silent, even when it was not easy, or maybe not the most politically wise thing to do. For me, it is core value to stand up for what we believe in, since almost always someone's life depends on it. As a co-spokesperson this responsibility is even greater, and my wish to fulfil it comes from the trust you put in me last year.

This year I did a lot of work on social justice, implemented our most participatory online campaign yet, spoke with activists from Palestine about their issues and even attempted to contact representatives. I showed what I stand for, even when it was invisible. This is route I plan to take in the future, bringing our equality to the forefront of the Greens. It is in this federation where I have felt empowered enough to try and step up to lead this diverse federation so intimately tied to the EU, since I feel we need a clear vision and a clear voice now more than ever.

There is a great feeling of being out of my league here and there is clearly a lot to learn, but I think that if there ever was a time to get motivated and step-up to the task, it is now. We need to be radical and direct to keep our ideals political viable, since otherwise we might not have anything to fight for anymore.

Finally, as someone from rising authoritarian country, from outside of the EU, I am well equipped to campaign on the threats we fear every day. With illegal detentions, illegal weapons used against peaceful assemblies, having people's wages cut for supporting protests, I know I can speak about this since I've seen how bad it can get. I ask of you to trust me for another mandate and I promise to be the one who will break the silence and speak for all of us when it is most difficult, to demand the impossible while being realistic.

Thinking over this year I often thought – what could we be doing better than right now? It's clear we are as FYEG doing a lot, but when in the middle of this haze, we are really rarely able to stop and really look at if what we are doing is the best it could be right now. It's really important for me to show you that I did not take the step of running for co-spokesperson lightly and that I would not have done this, had I not have had a strong vision to present to the various member organisations (MOs) FYEG has. Some of these points are long terms ones, where I believe we can improve in future mandates, however I hope to also accomplish a lot in this mandate as co-spokesperson. The following is a non-exhaustive list of my vision of FYEG as an organisation and how I believe I can contribute if you would trust me with this position:

1. **A Stronger Partnership with the Cooperation and Development Network Eastern Europe (CDN)**, our sister organisation has been sometimes overlooked but steadily working and professionalising. Within the past mandate our relationship has improved substantively and I know that the new EC of CDN has a very clear desire to align our two organisations and politically synchronise our organisations. Both of our ECs could clearly be saving time if we do more coordination and utilise our resources more efficiently. Very few people have sufficient knowledge of both organisations to be this bridge and this is a clear benefit I bring as co-spokesperson that I believe no other candidate can achieve. CDN has a lot of members we are not engaging with at all due to our current approach, but they have already done a lot of work on democratic backsliding, security and colonialism, topics which are of crucial importance to us. One of the many topics where this collaboration can improve our work is:
2. **Fighting for democracy efficiently and everywhere.** We all agree on democracies being a core pillar of our fight for justice and we all aim to increase democratic tendencies, not only in Europe but globally. Coming from an undemocratic country seeing the EU's stance towards dictators like the one ruling my country has only led me to question European values and our approaches to this. We see young people being disillusioned in the west for democracy and if we do not learn the current cases of democratic backsliding we will be forced to see it unveil again and again, losing progressive voices in the process. It's not enough to condemn dictators, we must also support democratic movements and engage with disenfranchised voices in a compassionate manner. From both my lived experience and educational background, I feel we could be doing more to address this with empathy and understanding, rather than claiming people are just wrong. Democratic backsliding is the seed from which autocratic tendencies sprout and then we very quickly devolve to war threats, which is why we need:

3. **A realistic stance on militarism, one that promotes long lasting peace and campaigns on this topic.** As this debate will start already at the General Assembly, thanks to some great resolution work, it is important we still keep our humane approach clear, while understanding that peace means more than the absence of war. Once we have a clear stance, I aim to campaign strongly and representatively about this topic and then work strongly with partners on this topic. It is very important that we see our stance on militarism as an intersectional one, which will impact our stance on crucial political questions, such as Ukraine, Palestine, Congo, Sudan and Myanmar, but also our stances on social justice. We can only advocate for this if we are clear what militarism, peace and decolonialism mean for us. If we do not act fast, young greens will start getting drafted, as we already see the return of mandatory military service in the Balkans, not to thwart the threat of Russian aggression, but to intimidate neighbours. We as youth are burdened with both dealing with the fallout of failures from previous generations and need to take care to repeat it. We don't have too much time so we need to advocate for our positions within the Greens primarily and to achieve that as co-spokesperson I will have:

4. **Strong approaches to the European Green Party (EGP) with clear targets.** Since the co-spokesperson has the chance to be present at the EGP committee meetings, this position enables us to clearly explain what we are working on right now and the most important topics that our Federation and our MOs are working on. My goal will be to have clear goals for every committee meeting and make sure that the positions of FYEG are clearly stated heard, both at the meetings and the Congresses. Having worked already on amendments I have become acquainted with these procedures and seen the impact FYEG can have, if we speak up at the right moment. For that I need your trust to be co-spokesperson and represent us in these crucial debates, where without us, young people are meekly represented. To ensure that the topics brought are the most important ones, the ones you most care about, I am also committed to:

5. **Working on a more horizontal hierarchical structure in FYEG – particularly in relation to volunteers and community.** We have relied more and more on rigid structures and top down decisions when it came to the professionalisation of FYEG. But in our best moments, such as the campaign for the European Parliament in 2024 we have turned this on its head, showcasing that FYEG is not only the EC but all our members. We need more moments of trusting each other and codify these relations. Alongside this in the past mandate I have seen how these issues cause friction within the federation. We need to actually implement

within our work the reality we wish to achieve for all of society and rigid structures are not part of that. If we don't do this, all our self-care can go out of the window since it is only feeding the same patriarchal machine where others thrive off of us. The issue of hierarchies has been brought up a lot during work this year for me, particularly related to social justice, which is why I make this point that by achieving this we can also work on:

6. **Implementing the strong work done on social justice.** It was clear at the event we hosted in Zadar that you are passionate about this topic and believe FYEG can and should do more about this. Working with our community I have learned so much, but I believe we also need to address the ambitious plans you set forth in our events, which includes abolition of oppressive hierarchies and access to housing, free-time and knowledge. This result also differs somewhat from the results of our work some years ago when the topic was also social justice, particularly when considering the need to work towards collective liberation about security, and also about the necessity of one's own space. This is why I also am committed to continuing the:

7. **Clear work on Housing and coordination with relevant parties.** With the work we did this year on housing, I was also able to attend online the steering committee meetings of the Green Group in the European Parliaments regarding housing. They are interested in the work done by FYEG on housing and about hearing what young people are going through. As co-spokes I promise to ensure FYEG is relevant in these discussions and to present the issues of young people by talking with you directly. Our work done so far showcased my belief in horizontal structures, in giving everyone a voice, but when working with different stakeholders I will facilitate:

8. **Partnerships with friendly CSOs in all our work.** To achieve our goals, we must be aware that Greens either succeed with civil society or fail alone. Last year I ran on this point and have during this mandate managed to network with various CSOs which in this mandate can spread their expertise across all the members in our network. So, if we are talking about militarism we should consult organisations like Just Stop War or Documenta; if we want to talk about ecology, why not work with our friends at Youth and Environment Europe, if we are talking about poverty, we can always count on the assistance from people at Oxfam. There are of course many others, but the point is that we are not alone, we just to call upon those that support us and be proactive to not miss out on valuable knowledge when forming opinions. Now this knowledge could be a gold mine but it can be utilised by only a few people if we don't:

9. **Implement more knowledge transfer occasions between member organisations.** You spoke clearly that sharing your individual contexts and learning about others is one of the main take-aways from FYEG. While the Green Base is currently not the space you most readily visit for such occasions, my aim is to increase this, and you have seen the start of this during this mandate, we are aiming to make it a space to also transfer your knowledge but also influence the positions of FYEG. As co-spokes this would be a priority FYEG would be seen as a safe-space but also a knowledge hub, good sources of information would be readily available, there would be regular calls between MOs and we will aim to eliminate the effect where you live has on the knowledge you can access. It is also crucial that great people which want to work with us don't always age out of the federation, which is why I will work towards setting up an:

10. **Alumni network for democratic memory and financing.** This project was already done during previous EC mandates, specifically, 2018-2021 where they even had alumni network coordinator as an EC task. We still have their old databases and contacts, but it was clear that the upkeep simply was not worth it, so we need to be more tactical and have a clear goal with the Alumni network. One would be sharing the experiences people had of FYEG in the past and what were the main issues and how they avoided them. The other is mapping of expertise and forming a network of outside speakers we can rely on when necessary. Finally, and importantly is the use of the Alumni network as a source of reoccurring small donor funding. Importantly this ties into my goal of:

11. **Working on stable financing and elimination of unpaid labour.** As the Treasurer of the past mandate, logically we worked a lot on the questions you might have when looking at the financial plan and report. We see a lot of issues and uncertainty that FYEG is facing due to our reliance on few key grants, which represent the rare ones which will fund party political youth organisations, and if a few European funds are cut, suddenly FYEG has to scale back all projects to the bare minimum and our office to but a few people. We cannot eliminate the uncertainty in project funding, but we can work with more people on one-off occasions in a stable and thankful manner. We need to address the amount of unpaid labour we expect and try to offer something in return, with my first idea being a token lump-sum payment for prep-team members. But to work on stability, the operative and the political sides of FYEG need to work-together seamlessly which is why I will be an:

12. **Efficient coordinator between the EC and office.** Having worked educational events and then seeing how we do projects, on our community work and seeing how we do

community, on our communications and seeing how that works, and crucially seeing the intense work we do on finances – I think I have a good grasp of both the political and the organisational side of FYEG. Because in our structures the co-spokesperson is also the main point of coordination, I know I have the ability make our work more efficient and productive while taking care of the different needs of all our different office units. Working in an NGO for the past 6 months and being my parties oversight board has also given me a lot of insight into how things work operationally, knowing what is and is not possible. FYEG can be a smooth political and operative campaigning machine, but that requires us to elect people who want to deal with operative tasks. We are entering a new 5-year period, culminating with the 2029 elections and with this coordination if elected I will be:

13. **Facilitating the implementation of the Strategic plan with all it's most ambitious parts of the next 5 years.** You should start as you mean to go on, and having together with Ben and Cinta undertaken the brunt of the invisible work on our strategy plan the aim is clear - to put our best foot forwards. This work has given me a clear overview of both what people want to see from FYEG and what we as FYEG wish to do in the next 5 years. This long-term planning is a rare case in youth organising, but I believe in case we really strive to achieve our goals we will be able to come into the elections in 2029 as a force for change, a force which Europe desperately needs. Now while I cannot go into detail here all the ways this would be done, I hope to also not seem to focused on the far future to forget the now, to forget our accountability, and to never forget:

14. **Reporting and transparency.** What stressed me out during this year was the number of organisations unaware of what we were doing and the current goals and main focuses of the EC. Driven by the strong organising tendency in the different organisations and party I believe that regular reports multiple times per mandate would be the beginning of a process letting you keep track of my work. I know not everyone would have the time to read them, but just a small showcase that things are happening outside of the General Assembly would ease some worries and connect us, especially those members which are most worried about the federation.

Thank you for taking the time to read all of this – especially as it is clear black on white, without much to grab your attention. I hope I was able to show that I have put a lot of care and thought into FYEG, and that it is a space I care about a lot, which is why I wish to make it better.



ANDREJ ZLATOVIĆ

Co-spokesperson
candidate from Serbia

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EDUCATION

Regional Centre for Talented Youths Zemun - 1

English Language and Literature module
2012 - 2017

Fifth Belgrade Grammar school

Mathematics and Sciences module
2013 - 2017

University of Belgrade Faculty of Philosophy

Bachelor of Archaeology - 9.05/10 GPA
Recipient of a state scholarship
2017 - 2022

University of Belgrade Faculty of Political Science

Masters of Culture Studies
Working on the correlation of
economic and culture change and
nationalism studies.
2023 - in blockade

WORK EXPERIENCE

Festival assistant and technical support Annually since 2019

International festival of Ethnographic film

- Worked with guests and creators, afterwards assisted in the production of the festival.
- Managed social media profiles, wrote speeches and organized volunteers. Did logistics and video and sound support.

Data collection, labeling and analysis

Microsoft Development Centre Serbia 2021

- Worked on collection of different data samples and marked them accordingly, afterwards sorted the data and kept track of progress.
- Mentored new hires and provided online onboardings.

Curator and assistant museum guide 2022 & 2024

October Salon - 59th edition

- Worked with people and assisted in presenting modern art
- Manage website design, content, and SEO Marketing, Branding and Logo Design

Assistant educator and teacher 2024

Group 484 - local action

- Worked with children, mostly from marginalized Roma backgrounds.
- Assisted in creating workshops and teaching them about the pillars of local action and civil disobedience.

Part time project assistant 2024 - ongoing

Center for Green Politics

- Worked on project writing and reporting
- Project ranged from promoting renewables and prosumerism in Central Serbia, a Green Youth of Serbia summer camp and a school of Green Politics for activists

CITIZENSHIP

Serbian & Croatian

PRONOUNS

Any - no strong preference

LANGUAGES

Serbian - Native

English - B2 diploma, C2 in practice

German - B1 diploma (expired)

CONFERENCE EXPERIENCE

Video Games as a Common ground

Organized by the University of
Zadar - held online - 2022

EKOnnect Young Greens Initiative

Organized by Youth Forum URA
during a CDN Summer Camp held
in Ulcinj - 2023

YOUTH PROJECTS

Head project coordinator and finance manager

A New Approach to Mental Health

2023

- Funded by the Young European Greens (FYEG)
- Worked and hosted panels with mental health experts.
- Drafted a mental health policy paper which has formed the basis of the Green-Left Fronts strategy for mental healthcare.

Local co-coordinator and logistics assistant

Let's Train - a Balkan railway project

2023

- Funded by Cooperation and Development Network Eastern Europe (CDN)
- Completed the project with the CDN member organizations from North Macedonia, Greece, Croatia and Montenegro
- Calculated cost benefit analyses and strategies of development for rail travel and worked on its promotion.

Prep team and narrative reporting

Green Youth of Serbia (ZOS) Summer Camp

2024

- Funded by International Foundation GroenLinks and took place in July 2024.
- Promoted green values and ideas for young activists in the form of an educational summer camp on Goč.
- Assisted with the logistics, execution and political vision of the program and did the reporting.

PARTIAL INTERNATIONAL EVENT EXPERIENCE

FYEG - European Train Tour - prep team

Belgrade, Serbia - 2024

Group 484 and truAktiv - Bridging Cultures: Empower &

Engage - Participant

Prizren, Kosovo - 2024

YFJ - Second yearly Congress - FYEG delegate

Brussels, Belgium - 2024

CDN - 2025 General Assembly - Presidency

Zagreb, Croatia - 2025

FYEG - European Lab: Social Justice Here and Now -

Prep team and EC responsible, Zadar, Croatia - 2025

ACTIVIST EXPERIENCE

Campaign activist for Luka Maksimović 2017

- Collected signatures for the satirical candidate Ljubiša Preletačević - Beli during the 2017 presidential election.
- Included working on administration, volunteer organizing and crowd management.

EKO3 co-founder and organiser 2021-2022

- A Belgrade based ecological organization which is no longer active.
- Worked on guerilla gardening, social media marketing with the aim of talking about ecological issues in Serbia.

Solidarity Kitchen field assistant 2021-2023

- Informal food bank organized in Belgrade which helped tens of thousands of people so far.
- Helped with the preparation of meals and the handing out of meals and sanitary supplies to those who need it.

Member and Co-spokesperson of ZOS 2022-2024

- The Green Youth of Serbia (ZOS) is the youth wing of the within the Green-Left Front (ZLF) opposition political party. As co-spokesperson I was in the grand council, the main decision making body of the Green-left Front.
- My duties were to represent the ZOS in public, including various media and organize meetings, workshops and events. Includes regularly writing press releases for local media. During this period I lead 2 local campaigns.

FYEG Campaign team member 2023-2024

- Was part of the FYEG campaign team for the 2024 European Parliament elections, mostly working on the Green Base.
- Worked on on-boarding and recruitment of volunteers, digital organizing of online platforms and managing volunteer tasks
- Managed the research, techies and knowledge guardian teams.

Member of the ZLF oversight board 2024-ongoing

- Part of a 3-person board tasked with the oversight of all finances of the Green-left front and ensuring all procedures done are legal.
- Currently working on a new rule-book and assisting in the reporting for a state audit procedure.

MISCELLANEOUS OTHER EXPERIENCES

Free Zone Film Festival volunteer Annually 2014-2018

- Worked with authors and guests at this film festival which alongside feature films, documentaries and short films.
- In later years I wrote smaller press releases for the festival.

Electronic Sports League Volunteer 2018

- Worked on amateur tournament administration, digital marketing strategies and reporting for their Adriatic division for one season.

Institute for Chemistry, Technology and Metalurgy Lab Assistant 2018-2020

- Worked with senior researchers on projects related to evaluating differences between soil samples collected in anthropological and natural ground layers.
- This was mostly done via pH values and biomarker analysis, with the results being used for an international project.

Digitization of the CIC archive 2019

- Transferred the entire archive of projects done by the Serbian Central Institute for Conservation into various digital formats for an exhibition done for their 10 year anniversary.
- This institute was closed a few year after due to budget cuts .

Freelance Statistical Analysis since 2021

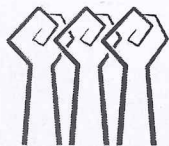
- Worked in SPSS to create graphs and perform statistical analyses as for various articles and research papers.
- Most of the work was done for students writing their masters thesis on topics like security or demographics.

Institute of Contemporary History 2024-2025

- Assisted on a project that the ICH worked on with the Norwegian Institute of International affairs which was aimed at accessing opinions in Eastern Europe about political events, media literacy and in their local communities.
- Assisted with the construction of a survey aimed at assessing this and then it's subsequent implementation

Supporting Protest Movements 2016-ongoing

- There have been many, with the biggest ones being: the Serbia Against Violence protests, the “Ne Damo Jadar” protests against Lithium mining and colonialism and the current student protests at various locations.



Zelena Omladina Srbije
Patrijarha Gavrilu 6, Beograd

On behalf of the Green Youth of Serbia, I'm writing to express support for Andrej Zlatović's candidacy for the position of FYEG's Executive Committee member for 2025/26!

Andrej has been and remains engaged in our mother party and our organization, ZOS, as its youth wing. They also collaborate with the Center for Green Politics to enable and support our international projects, and have recently become a member of the mother party's Oversight Committee, using the experience as FYEG's Treasurer to increase the presence of ZOS, and young people as a whole, in formal political structures. I believe the entire FYEG EC knows what else they bring to the table, especially in terms of political discussion and turning vague ideas into actual project plans.

The entirety of ZOS membership supports Andrej's re-run as a member of FYEG's EC. Their previous year allowed them to both express and hone their skills as an activist and political actor. We benefit from having them in our organization, and we're happy to see them grow on the international stage.

Belgrade, 09. 02. 2025.

Anđela Marković

International secretary of the Green Youth of Serbia

AnMarković