R4 Establish a European Right to Access Nature

Proposer: Grön Ungdom
Agenda item: 7. Resolutions

Motion text

From the forests of Sweden to the highlands of Scotland and the coastal paths of Portugal, natural landscapes offer space for rest and reflection, cultural connection, and environmental awareness. In Sweden the allemansrätt is a law that gives everyone the freedom to walk, camp, and forage in nature, as long as they do so responsibly. This right exists regardless of land ownership and is based on the principle that nature should be shared and protected by all. Equivalent laws also exist in Norway and Finland.

In much of Europe however such rights are limited. Access to nature is often restricted by legal and private boundaries, leaving many people disconnected from the landscapes around them. This weakens the relationship between people and the environment and undermines efforts to build a more ecologically aware and responsible society.

As Europe faces ongoing environmental and mental health crises, ensuring the right to experience and care for nature is more important than ever. Everyone should have the opportunity to connect with the land – not just for recreation, but as a part of democratic life and environmental responsibility.

Both the European Green Deal and EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 acknowledge the importance of public access to green spaces. These commitments must now be turned into concrete action. Access to nature must become a right – not a privilege.

The Federation of Young European Greens therefore calls to:

- **Establish a European Right to Access Nature that guarantees every person the right to move through natural landscapes, regardless of ownership, under clear environmental and social guidelines.**

- **Support member states in harmonizing national laws with this right, while respecting cultural traditions, ecological limits, and existing legal frameworks.**

Supporters

Vilma Jaatinen (Vihreät Nuoret), Øyunn S. Kåset (Grønn Ungdom), Michele Rattotti (Giovani Europeisti Verdi), Mona Sandholm (Vihreät Nuoret)