

EC1 Aislinn Hughes

Proposers:

Agenda item: 2. Candidates for Co-Spokesperson

Introduction

My name is Aislinn Hughes, and FYEG brings out the best in me, so I would love to have the opportunity to bring out the best in FYEG.

I am currently a member of the Executive Committee of FYEG, and if I am not elected as Co-Spokesperson, I would love to serve another term as member of the Executive Committee of the organization I call home. Through my experiences as an activist and a policy staff advisor I am skilled at translating abstract politics into simple, strong messages and maintaining a network marked by its many unique cultures. I am dependent, I have my shit together and I am ready to help this organization through this stormy weather.

In my free time I love to watch rugby, go to concerts, read books, watch movies, (and post unhinged reviews of them on my private Instagram story), hug animals and being in nature.

Dankjewel, and see you in South Tyrol!!!



Member Organisation:
DWARS - GroenLinkse Jongeren



VOOR JOUW
TOEKOMST

THANKS, WE'LL
TAKE IT FROM
HERE...

YOUNG
EUROPEAN
GREENS

YOUNG
EUROPEAN
GREENS

BREAK THE
CYCLE!

VOTES
FOR
WOMEN

motivation

Dear Member Organisations of the Federation of Young European Greens,

I'm just a girl (again) standing in front of the MOs, asking them to elect her as Co-Spokesperson of FYEG.

This decision comes from ambition, timing and above all my belief in this movement. FYEG represents what drew me to Green politics in the first place: **international solidarity, grassroots activism, non-formal learning**, and a **community** that empowers young people to challenge systems that were never built with us in mind.

FYEG has given me friendships, knowledge, and political direction. After 3 years of being involved and 1 term as EC, running for co-spokesperson is my next step to give back and help strengthen our collective voice. Because the moment we are living in demands it.

Across Europe, the far right is gaining ground, pushing agendas rooted in authoritarianism and technofascism. More and more we see hatred poison society, in the form of the dehumanisation of migrants, attacks on LGBTQIA+ rights and reproductive freedom. At the same time, public attention to the climate crisis is shrinking, even as climate disasters intensify.

The Green voice must be facts-based, progressive, inclusive and loud. FYEG has a role to play in making sure that voice is heard.

As Co-Spokesperson, my priorities will be:

- Ensuring our long term strategy towards EU29 is present in every activity and output.
- Strengthening FYEG's political voice amongst EGP's structures, and introducing us to spaces where we don't yet have a seat at the table.
- Making sure Young Greens create the agenda and the narrative around climate justice, democracy, and social justice, not only being a **reactionary** voice.
- Representing FYEG within the Green family and beyond, and being a watchdog for including youth perspectives.
- Ensuring strong coordination within the Executive Committee. The EC works best when it functions as a collaborative leadership team. The Co-Spokespersons play a key role in keeping that coordination strong, transparent, and supportive through consistent check ins and feedback.

My green base

I've been active in DWARS, the Dutch Young Greens, for nearly 4,5 years. During that time I contributed to renewing our Political Platform twice, helped organise around 10 General Assemblies, served on a local chapter board, was on the selection committee for our board, and organised larger activities. Throughout my involvement, I consistently pushed to strengthen international cooperation between FYEG and DWARS, for example, successfully amending DWARS's board structure to reinstate the position of international responsible.

Professionally, I work as a policy advisor to the Dutch Minister of Infrastructure and Water Management, focusing on spatial planning for transport, circular economy, water and soil systems, and coordinating the implementation of the Environmental Planning Act. This role has given me insight into how political institutions function and how to speak the language of decision-makers.

Before that, I interned with the Green Party in the Dutch Parliament, supporting the first hijabi MP in the Netherlands. Attending court hearings related to violent online threats against her deeply shaped my understanding of politics, showing both the risks of political engagement and the resilience needed to challenge exclusionary systems.

Experience within FYEG

Since becoming active in FYEG in 2023, I've contributed to three Prep Teams, worked with the Beyond Growth platform, supported the EU24 campaign, and joined the Community Crew.

Over the past year as EC member, I served as contact point for 16 Member Organisations. This role brought me to several General Assemblies across Europe and allowed me to better understand the diverse political realities our MOs operate in. It also reinforced something simple: the strength of FYEG lies in its members.

Within the broader board structure, I gained experience coordinating discussions, facilitating consensus, and building bridges between MOs and the Executive Committee. Alongside this, I was involved in political strategizing around the merger between GroenLinks and the Dutch Labour Party (PvdA), which strengthened my understanding of coalition-building and long-term political positioning.

How I work

My working style reflects my cultural background:

- I am both pragmatic, direct, and comfortable working under pressure.
- At the same time, personal connections are everything, politics is about people about building trust, creating welcoming spaces, and sometimes having difficult conversations over a beer rather than a tense meeting.

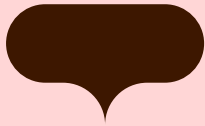
Leadership, to me, means facilitating space for disagreement and debate while centring what we agree on, allowing our movement to keep evolving. It also means creating the conditions for others to bring forward their best ideas. My main counter-argument to running for Co-Spokes was that my instinct is to facilitate rather than direct. I wasn't sure that fit a coordinating role, but I've come to see that making space for others and bringing out their strengths can also be a form of leadership.

Closing

The Green movement has shaped me profoundly over the past years, and I want to help shape its future. As Co-Spokesperson, I'm ready to represent FYEG publicly, coordinate the work of the Executive Committee, and strengthen our political voice within the Green family and beyond.

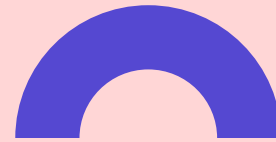
(consensual) hugs and kisses,
Aislinn

FYEG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



MISSION

FYEG must empower, mobilize and campaign to break the cycles of oppression, inequality and climate injustice in Europe.



VISION

FYEG as a fearless, interconnected grassroots movement across Europe where ordinary people build extraordinary power, hold institutions accountable, and reshape systems rooted in oppression and inequality. By transforming outrage into strategic action, we turn resistance into lasting change.

Key Points

What I want to keep prioritizing

1. **Intercultural exchange between MO's**
 - Social media collabs
 - Knowledge transfer: FYEG-wide toolkit
 - Online and physical exchange between MO's
 - Political positions and organizational tips
2. **Nurturing our sense of community**
 - To MO's, young candidates, and internally (Office)
 - An online presence which attracts people to us
3. **Long term political strategy**
 - Consistently adding to the EU29 strategy in all activities
 - Pushing advocacy through petitions
4. **Fundraising strategy**
 - MEPs, EGP, national mother parties

What I want to (re)prioritize

1. **Structurally increasing collaboration with other PPYO's and youth NGO's**
 - Both *externally* (social media/events) and *internally* (network for knowledge sharing).
2. **Strategic task division**
 - Clear(er) expectation management of the EC's capacity.
 - Taking time to make developed and clear responses to relevant global events, limiting rushed output.
3. **(Proudly) advertising the benefits of being involved.**
 - Promoting skills and a network
 - Retaining people within organisations
4. **Visibly holding our partners accountable**
 - Being well organized, prepared and critical when needed so the 'grown ups' cannot work around us.



Aislinn Hughes

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EXPERIENCE

Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management

March 2024 – Present

- *Policy Staff Officer for Physical Living Environment* – Providing policy advice to the Minister and State Secretary, Secretary-General, and Director-General of the ministry. Policy areas of expertise: circular economy, water, soil, environment, mobility, maritime affairs, aviation and spatial planning.

Federation of Young European Greens

May 2025 – present

- *Executive Committee Member*: Regional responsible for the Western and Northern regions, Summer camp, strategy 2025-2030.

EU&U, Social Media Movement for EU Politics

Jan 2022 – May 2025

- *Social Media Team Member* – Creating content for the Instagram (reach 32k) and TikTok (reach 6k) accounts.

GroenLinks, House of Representatives Faction

Jan 2023 – Nov 2023

- *Policy Intern* – Responsible for the portfolios of circular economy, climate, and energy: preparing parliamentary questions, debates, roundtable discussions, lobbying meetings, and legislative initiatives. **MP: Kauthar Bouchallikht**
- *Back Office Staff for Parliamentary Elections* – Contact with undecided voters, organizing 4 campaign activities, including the congress at Ahoy Rotterdam.

Study Abroad Office, Leiden University

August 2023 – Feb 2024

- *Student Assistant* – Logistical support and website maintenance for the exchange program for Bachelor students.
- Organising partner events between Universities and study programs.

EDUCATION

Propaedeutic Diploma: *Teacher of English (Secondary Education)*

- Utrecht University of Applied Sciences | 2018–2019

BA *English Language and Culture (cum laude)*

- Leiden University | 2019–2022
 - Minor in Global Affairs (grade: **9.2**), Honours Programme ‘Humanities Lab’
 - Essay prize “EU in Practice”
 - Thesis: “The Changing Use of Nationalism, Identity and Trauma in Irish Literature of the Great War” (grade: **9.1**)

MA *International Relations: Global Conflict in the Modern Era*

- Leiden University | 2022–2024
 - Thesis: “Graffiti Scrawls: ‘This is not your country’: Belfast Murals as Modern Ideological Battlefields”(grade: **9.0**)
 - *Honours Track*: Leiden Leadership Programme – corporate sustainability consultancy project at Arcadis.

• Summer Schools

- Research on Greek Dynamic Heritage, Netherlands Institute Athens | 2022
- Crisis of Democracy – the State of Europe, EUROPAEUM | 2023

COMMITTEE WORK

DWARS, GroenLinks Youth Organization

- *Board Member Leiden-Haaglanden Chapter*: Promotion and Member Engagement – Responsible for contact with members and managing social media channels.
- *Various committees*: Congress Committee, Acquisition Committees, DIRT, Political Program Committee, Activities Committee.

Federation of Young European Greens

- *Various committees*: Summercamp 2023, Influenceelections, EU24 Campaign, COP Baku Event, Community Crew

ISSA, MA International Relations Study Association

- Board Member ‘Social Chair’ – Organized 12 networking and educational events for ~150 students

De Jonge Ambtenaar

- Board Member ‘sustainability’ – Organising events for young policy advisors across all levels of Dutch government, with a focus on applying sustainable practices into policy writing.

SKILLS

Event Organization

Social Media Management

Financial Administration

Policy Development

Fundraising

Graphic Design

Stakeholder Management

Analytical Research

CRM Systems

Political Strategy Development

Digital Marketing

Data Analysis

VOLUNTEERING

- **Researcher, LGBTQIA+ Library** – Developed educational material about the lives of senior LGBTQ+ individuals for vocational training programs in Healthcare and Welfare.
- **Local Team, Milieudefensie** – Organized protest actions.
- **Student Buddy, Senior & Student** – Weekly visits to elderly living alone.
- **Buddy, InCLUision Leiden** – Supported refugee students with learning Dutch, finding housing, and job seeking.
- **Palliative Care Volunteer, Alrijne Hospital** – Supported patients declared terminally ill.
- **Volunteer, European Solidarity Corps** – Available for projects across various EU member states, such as camps and trainings.
- **SPRNT Program, Nederlandse Jeugd Raad** – Attended self-development trainings by the Dutch National Youth Council and contributed to political strategy “Vote for Youth Candidates.”
- **Volunteer, Refugee Council Netherlands** – Supported refugees at the Municipality of Leiden.

LANGUAGES

- **C2:** English, Dutch
- **B1:** French, German, Gaeilge, Icelandic

The Hague, The Netherlands, April 7th 2026

Letter of Support for Aisling Hughes, Candidate Co-Spokesperson

Dear fellow International Secretaries and delegates,

DWARS, GroenLinkse Jongeren, fully endorses the candidacy of Aisling Hughes as candidate for Co-spokesperson of the Federation of Young European Greens.

A Co-spokesperson is someone who is able to lead a team, put others in positions where their qualities are best utilised, and look at the bigger picture. Aisling is a person who can do all three, and above all, is compassionate and dedicated to others. As co-spokesperson Aisling create an environment within the EC where co-creation is the foundation, and a safe space for individuals to learn, make mistakes, and grow.

In her current role on the Executive Committee, she is responsible for all the Northern and Western Member Organisations—a very large number of MOs. Over the past year, Aisling has dedicated herself to giving each of these MOs the personal attention they deserve. She has done so not only by visiting as many MOs as possible, but also by being attentive to their situations, contexts, and capacities. She is approachable, always open to helping, and available by phone or text. This demonstrates not only her dedication to the federation—where each MO deserves individual attention—but also her commitment to understanding each MO's local context.

Alongside her dedication, compassion, and attentiveness, Aisling is also an excellent strategist and lobbyist. In her role at the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management of the Netherlands, where she works directly with the Minister, she translates ideas into practical policy. Moreover, she has played a vital role in the campaign to keep Progressief Nederland (the merger party from GroenLinks, our mother party) within the Greens.

With her experience in DWARS, FYEG, all her other work and her dedication to the green movement we believe Aislinn is extremely qualified for this position and are proud to support her candidacy.

In green solidarity,

Cerisa van Kesteren
International Secretary of DWARS, GroenLinkse Jongeren