

SG2 Serdar Őengezer

Agenda item: 1. Candidates for Secretary General

Introduction

Please find below Serdar Őengezer's application for Secretary General



Dear Green Family,

I am writing to apply for the position of Secretary General of the Federation of Young European Greens. Having served on FYEG's Executive Committee for two years, contributed to the Beyond Growth Platform, co-organised a General Assembly, and am currently organising the upcoming one, I bring both deep institutional knowledge and hands-on operational experience to this role. I am convinced that this moment calls for a Secretary General who can consolidate FYEG's strategic direction, strengthen its member organisations, and translate green values into concrete political action across Europe.

Deep Institutional Knowledge and FYEG Experience

My engagement with FYEG began before joining the Executive Committee, through over a year of active participation in the Beyond Growth Platform. As an EC member, I have monitored political developments at the European level, contributed to advocacy and communications strategy, coordinated regional work for the South region, represented FYEG at numerous events, and overseen both the Beyond Growth Platform and the Ecosiprinter. I have also supported statutory processes and digital communications. This breadth of involvement means I do not need time to learn FYEG's structures, I am ready to lead from day one.

The General Assembly is among FYEG's most complex statutory undertakings, requiring precise coordination of agendas, stakeholder communication, and democratic processes under tight political timelines. I have organised one GA and am currently overseeing the preparation of the next, gaining direct and transferable experience in exactly the kind of governance and logistical management that the Secretary General must master.

Legal, Political, and Advocacy Expertise

As a qualified lawyer, I have worked on cases involving freedom of expression, discrimination, and excessive use of force, areas central to the values FYEG upholds. This professional background has sharpened my ability to navigate complex institutional frameworks, identify risk, and develop strategic responses. My expertise in fundamental rights and institutional mediation translates directly into the diplomacy and communication skills required to represent FYEG before EU institutions, the Council of Europe, and partner organisations.

At the EGP Congress in Lisbon, I served as a FYEG delegate responsible for two resolutions, drafted amendments and briefings, and co-initiated the first FYEG–EGP joint Instagram collaboration. I understand the importance of structured information flow, concise briefing, and message alignment across teams, skills essential for a Secretary General coordinating the Office, the EC, and external stakeholders simultaneously.

Academic Foundation in EU and Green Politics

My Master's degree in International Relations from Eötvös Loránd University, completed with a perfect 5/5 GPA as top student, focused on the European Green Deal and its regulatory impact on Germany, Türkiye, and the United Kingdom, directly strengthening my understanding of EU legislative processes, green industrial strategy, and regulatory convergence. I am simultaneously finalising a Master's thesis in International Law on climate justice and climate migration. These academic pursuits are not peripheral to my candidacy;

they inform my political vision and my capacity to engage meaningfully with FYEG's positions on the green transition.

My study period at Heidelberg University through Erasmus, my work as a teaching assistant, and my publications in academic journals and platforms reflect an ability to synthesise complex material and communicate it effectively, a quality indispensable for overseeing FYEG's communications calendar and drafting advocacy materials.

Leadership, Human Resources, and Organisational Management

As Student Ombudsman at Maltepe University, elected and re-elected annually, I represented the student body before the university senate, mediated disputes, and chaired international conferences. This experience developed my capacity to lead within democratic structures, manage competing interests diplomatically, and maintain accountability to a broad constituency. These are precisely the qualities required of a Secretary General who reports to the EC, coordinates an office of six staff and one intern, and represents the organisation to the outside world.

I also assisted Young Greens of Turkey in successfully applying for CDN's local action funds, and organised a resulting local action, demonstrating experience in grant processes, donor relations, and on-the-ground programme delivery that aligns with the financial management responsibilities central to this role.

My Commitment to FYEG

FYEG is at a critical juncture. The green movement in Europe faces unprecedented political headwinds, yet also an urgent necessity to expand its reach among young people across the continent. As Secretary General, I would bring institutional continuity, having already been embedded in FYEG's daily political and organisational life, while pursuing a proactive agenda of member organisation capacity-building, stronger EU institutional engagement, and deepened regional coordination, particularly with underrepresented southern and eastern member organisations.

I am fully prepared to relocate to Brussels, commit to the demands of this full-time role, and bring the energy, discipline, and political vision that FYEG deserves. I am more than eager to contribute to FYEG, our member organisations, and our Green Family.

Loves and Green Regards,
Serdar Şengezer

FYEG Vision 2026–2029

Brave, Dynamic, Winning:

Building a Federation That Leads

Preamble: The Moment We Are In

I know that for a long time we Greens have not been having our best time. I know that many of you are afraid, anxious, or furious, and rightfully so. You look at the future and you see only dark clouds. Rising authoritarianism, climate inaction, shrinking civic space, wars tearing at the fabric of the international order. That is not a new feeling for me either.

But the future is not written. We can change it — together.

This document sets out a vision for what the Federation of Young European Greens (FYEG) can and must be over the next two to five years. It is not a manifesto of despair nor a catalogue of vague aspirations. It is a practical, political, and organisational roadmap, rounded in the challenges we face and inspired by the victories we know are possible. From Zac Polanski's breakthrough in London to Zohran Mamdani's historic campaign in New York, from the Green wave in local councils across Germany and Denmark to youth-led climate movements reshaping the political conversation, we have seen what brave, dynamic, proactive leadership can achieve. FYEG must bring that same energy to the heart of Europe.

For two years, you trusted me with the leadership of this federation. I did everything I could to deserve that trust. Now I stand before you and ask for it one more time, not for my sake, but because the next three years will define the trajectory of green politics in Europe for a generation.

1. Understanding Our Crisis — And Our Opportunity

FYEG is losing member organisations en masse, in every region. Shrinking membership bases, strained finances, reduced capacity: these are not problems we can wish away. They are structural, and they demand structural answers. Yet there is a clear pattern in our data: the regions where FYEG is holding better, where member organisations are stable or even growing, are precisely the regions that have strong, well-resourced, politically active green parties.

This is not a coincidence. It tells us something profound: our organisational health is inseparable from the political health of the broader green movement. FYEG cannot

simply be a service provider for its member organisations, a conference-organising body that meets once a year and issues resolutions nobody reads. We must be a political actor in our own right: capable of shaping debate, winning campaigns, building power, and demonstrating to young people across the continent that green politics is not just principled, but effective.

The question before us, then, is not whether to change our approach. The question is how, how boldly, how quickly, and in what direction.

2. Political Vision: Proactive, Not Reactionary

The defining failure of European progressive politics over the past decade has been its reactive posture. We respond to crises instead of generating agendas. We defend achievements instead of building new ones. We let our opponents frame every debate, and then scramble to offer a "reasonable" alternative that satisfies nobody.

FYEG must model a different politics, one built on three pillars:

- **Boldness in framing:** We set the agenda. We speak first, loudly, with confidence, on climate, on democracy, on housing, on migration, on social justice. We do not wait for permission from parties or institutions before we name what is wrong and propose what is right.
- **Discipline in strategy:** Boldness without strategy is noise. We must be selective, focused, and disciplined in choosing which battles to fight, and fight them to win. Not every campaign, not every issue. The ones where our voice makes a decisive difference.
- **Courage in victory:** When we win, and we will win, we celebrate it, we own it, we build on it. Green politics is not a politics of perpetual opposition. It is a politics of transformation, and transformation requires accumulating wins and showing that they are possible.

The Electoral Landscape Ahead

The next three years will bring a wave of consequential elections: from the European Parliament cycle and its aftermath, to pivotal national contests in Turkey, Georgia, and Serbia. Each of these elections will test whether green and democratic forces can hold ground, or whether authoritarian and nationalist movements continue their advance. FYEG must be present in all of them: not as a detached observer, but as an active supporter of young democratic activists on the ground, regardless of whether they are in EU member states.

On peace: we will push for a fair and lasting peace in both Ukraine and Palestine. These are not abstract foreign-policy positions. They are existential questions for millions of young people, including many in our own member organisations, and we must speak to them with clarity, moral seriousness, and political courage.

3. Organisational Vision: A Federation That Works

Political ambition without organisational capacity is a fantasy. If we want FYEG to punch above its weight politically, we must build the infrastructure that makes that possible. This means honest conversations about what is not working, and concrete proposals to fix it.

Using the Tools We Already Have

There are instruments available to us that we are simply not using, tools that would give FYEG enormous visibility, democratic legitimacy, and institutional leverage if we deployed them systematically.

Two deserve particular attention:

- **The European Citizens' Initiative (ECI):** This mechanism allows citizens to place items directly on the European Commission's agenda with one million signatures from at least seven member states. FYEG, with its network spanning dozens of countries and hundreds of thousands of young people, is ideally positioned to lead or co-lead ECI campaigns on climate, housing, or democratic reform. We are not using this tool. We must start.
- **Access to Information and Document Requests:** Requesting documents from the European Commission, meeting minutes, correspondence, the background to key decisions, is a powerful tool for accountability journalism and democratic scrutiny. FYEG should be actively using transparency mechanisms to expose the gap between official rhetoric and actual decision-making, and to arm our member organisations and allied journalists with evidence they can use.

Opening the Federation to Whole Europe

FYEG's membership stretches far beyond the European Union. We have member organisations in countries that are candidate states, neighbourhood partners, and beyond. Yet our office functions in a way that systematically excludes people from those countries.

The issue of work permits has been raised for two years. Nothing has changed. We are directly turning away remarkable candidates, from roughly one third of our member organisations, simply because of administrative barriers we have the capacity to resolve but have chosen not to prioritise. This is not just an HR problem. It is a political statement about whose participation we value, and it contradicts everything we claim to stand for on inclusion and Pan-European solidarity.

In the next three years, FYEG must secure the legal and administrative framework to hire staff from all member organisations, regardless of their country of origin. This is achievable. It requires political will and organisational resources. We will provide both.

Rebuilding Membership and Deepening Regional Roots

We cannot reverse membership decline by issuing statements or discussing it during the meetings. We reverse it by being useful. FYEG must ask every member organisation the same question: what do you actually need from us? And then we must build the capacity to deliver it.

In practice, this means: training programmes for young green activists in campaign skills, digital organising, and media communication; peer-learning networks so that the successful innovations of one member organisation can be rapidly shared with others; and a dedicated regional support function within FYEG's secretary general, so that weakened or newer organisations receive mentoring and practical help rather than being left to sink or swim alone.

4. Leadership Vision: Brave, Dynamic, Winning

Leadership in a federation like FYEG is about inspiring confidence, confidence that something is changing, that our collective effort is building towards something real, that we are not just going through the motions.

I believe that leadership in this moment requires three qualities above all else.

Courage

Courage to name what is wrong inside our own movement, not just what is wrong with our opponents. Courage to make difficult decisions about priorities and resources. Courage to speak clearly on contested issues, Ukraine, Palestine, migration, the future of the EU, rather than retreating into the safety of procedural language. Our members deserve leaders who tell them the truth, even when it is uncomfortable.

Dynamism

FYEG must move faster. The political landscape changes in days and weeks, not months and years. Our internal processes, decision-making, communications, campaign responses, must be built for speed and agility. This means investing in digital infrastructure, empowering working groups and regional structures to act without always waiting for executive approval, and building a culture where initiative is rewarded rather than bureaucratically smothered.

A commitment to winning

We must stop treating moral consistency as a substitute for political effectiveness. Both matter. But a movement that is always right and never wins will not change the world. FYEG should study victories closely, in our own family and beyond, and rigorously extract the lessons. What made the Green surge in local elections across Northern Europe possible? What enabled Zac Polanski to become the most popular leader in the country on an unapologetically radical programme? What gave Zohran Mamdani the credibility to connect with working-class voters while maintaining a thoroughly Green programme? These are not rhetorical questions. They are strategic questions, and answering them should shape how we train our members, communicate our politics, and allocate our limited resources.

5. The Horizon: 2027 and Beyond

By 2027, I want FYEG to be an organisation that its member organisations are proud to belong to, not simply out of tradition or political affiliation, but because membership delivers real value and makes their work more effective. I want us to be

an organisation that the European institutions take seriously as a political actor. I want us to be an organisation that young people in Tbilisi, Belgrade, Ankara, and Kyiv look to as a source of solidarity, training, and hope.

None of this is guaranteed. All of it is possible. The future, as I said at the outset, is not written. But it will be written by someone, by the decisions we make in the next few months and years, by the courage we are willing to show, by the trust we are willing to extend to each other.

Dark clouds are real. But so is the wind that moves them. Let us be that wind.

Loves and Green Regards,

Serdar Şengezer



Serdar Şengezer

Date of birth: 20/01/1998 | **Phone number:** (+36) 703912626 (Mobile) | **Email address:**

serdarsengezer01@gmail.com | **Address:** Budapest, Hungary (Home)

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

11/09/2023 – 04/07/2025

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS MA Eötvös Loránd University

14/10/2024 – 01/03/2025

ERASMUS EXCHANGE SEMESTER Ruprecht Karl University of Heidelberg

16/08/2016 – 15/06/2020

BACHELOR OF LAWS (FULL SCHOLARSHIP) Maltepe University

WORK EXPERIENCE

MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – FEDERATION OF YOUNG EUROPEAN GREENS (FYEG) – 21/08/2024 – Current – BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

- Monitored political developments at the European level and contributed to advocacy and communications strategy.
- Coordinated regional work for the South region and represented the organisation at numerous international events.
- Oversaw key bodies, including the Beyond Growth Platform and the Ecosprinter.
- Supported statutory processes, including preparation and implementation of organisational and political procedures.
- Contributed to digital communications and external outreach.
- Led communications strategy, including social media and digital campaigns.
- Organised one General Assembly and currently oversee preparations for the next, ensuring coordination of agendas, stakeholder communication, and statutory processes under tight timelines.

TEACHING ASSISTANT – EÖTVÖS LORÁND UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE OF POLITICAL AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES – 11/03/2024 – 05/08/2024 – BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

- Supported lecturers in delivering courses in international relations, political science, and public law, ensuring academic materials were clear and accessible.
- Facilitated seminars and group discussions, encouraging critical thinking and active participation among students.
- Mentored and advised students on academic projects, research methods, and study strategies.
- Graded assignments and exams, providing constructive feedback to improve performance.
- Participated in student admissions interviews, assessing candidates for international relations programs.
- Evaluated academic potential and soft skills to support admission decisions.

INTERN LAWYER – ŞENEL LAW FIRM – 02/07/2020 – 12/07/2021 – ISTANBUL, TÜRKIYE

- Conducted legal research, case law analysis, and contract drafting for civil and commercial law cases.
- Prepared trial materials and attended hearings, depositions, and client meetings.
- Authored articles and booklets on legal topics, including legislative history.
- Managed case files, client correspondence, and administrative operations in a high-volume legal environment.
- Assisted with finance and accounting tasks, including invoicing, expense reporting, and client billing.
- Delivered customer service support, liaising with clients to ensure clear communication and smooth case management.

OMBUDSMAN – MALTEPE UNIVERSITY – 16/09/2018 – 02/07/2020 – ISTANBUL

- Appointed by the university rector and senate following recommendation from professors and dean to serve as student ombudsman until graduation.
- Acted as a mediator between students and university administration, evaluating complaints and facilitating constructive dialogue.
- Resolved conflicts through negotiation, problem-solving, and consensus-building, ensuring fair treatment and compliance with university policies.

- Proposed and implemented solutions to student grievances that balanced academic requirements with student needs.
- Enhanced governance and communication within the university by fostering transparency and accountability.

● LANGUAGE SKILLS

Mother tongue(s): **TURKISH**

Other language(s):

	UNDERSTANDING		SPEAKING		WRITING
	Listening	Reading	Spoken production	Spoken interaction	
ENGLISH	C2	C2	C2	C2	C2
GERMAN	B1	B1	B1	B1	B2
HUNGARIAN	A1	A2	A1	A1	A1

Levels: A1 and A2: Basic user; B1 and B2: Independent user; C1 and C2: Proficient user

GA 2026: Secretary General Selection - Assessment Report by the Selection Committee

Background

The Secretary General of the Federation of Young European Greens (FYEG) is a highly demanding position that requires excellent organisational and leadership skills, as well as substantial knowledge of Green politics, the EU, and youth policies. The Secretary General reports to the FYEG Executive Committee and is responsible for managing the FYEG Secretariat, which currently includes three full-time office members, three part-time office members and one intern. The Secretary General's tasks include facilitating and supporting the work of the Executive Committee, managing human resources and finances, supervising educational and capacity-building activities, coordinating statutory activities, and maintaining good contact and coordination with member organisations, partners, and stakeholders.

Considering that FYEG's Secretary General is both a political and an administrative secretary of the organisation, FYEG's Internal Rules of Procedure (IRPs) foresee a combination of political selection process and a professional recruitment procedure. The Secretary General is officially elected by FYEG MOs during their General Assembly (GA). In accordance with section 5 of Annex 1 of the IRPs, a committee for pre-selection is established prior to the GA in order to assess the candidates' experiences and skills. This Selection Committee shall consist of a current Executive Committee (EC) member, a former Secretary General, one representative of a full Member Organisation (MO) and one NGO professional worker. The Selection Committee assesses the received applications and if possible conducts a written assignment and an interview. This process ends with a recommendation to the GA, which presents an endorsement of the candidate by the EC. In case a candidate is not recommended by the committee, they will still be able to apply for the position and present themselves at the GA, but the candidacy will not be endorsed by the EC. Candidates will be given a month to campaign and are expected to present themselves at the GA. The final decision on the Sec-Gen of FYEG lies with the final vote of delegates at the GA of the Federation.

Process

Considering geographical and gender-balance, the **Executive Committee has appointed the following Selection Committee:**

- **Andrej Zlatović**, current FYEG Co-spokesperson and Executive Committee Member;
- **Liv Onkelinx**, member of Jong Groen and former Co-spokesperson;
- **Özgecan Kara**, former Secretary General of FYEG;
- **Hiba Latreche**, President of the Forum of European Muslim Youth and Student Organisations.

The call for Secretary General was published on the 4th of March alongside the other calls for the GA and it was open until the 15th of April. Two candidacies were received. The selection committee confirmed their participation and started the process on the 27th of April. Both candidates' documents were thoroughly reviewed, and determined to be sufficient to partake in the process. On the 4th of May, the Selection Committee met and agreed upon a selection process and scheduled interviews with both candidates. The Committee determined that they would only conduct an interview, and not give a written assignment to the candidates.

This assessment is based on the applications and interviews of Cinta González Sentís and Serdar Şengezer.

Assessment

Cinta González Sentís

Cinta possesses clear knowledge of the complexities of FYEG, the details of the position and the organisations FYEG collaborates with. Her knowledge of FYEG's position in the context of EU politics is strong and rooted in experience, both from her previous experiences in an MO, and long term office experience as showcased in her application and interview. She shows great awareness of the current state FYEG is in financially and administratively and aims to tackle it with concrete steps. We also recognise the steps Cinta has already put forward in her current mandate as the Secretary General.

She is clearly motivated for the position and interested in organising FYEG ahead of the 2029 European elections with clear steps. Her hope is that in her words FYEG can become a 'campaigning machine' with clear goals and efficient organising of both the office, the EC and the MOs. Within her application and interview we recognise that Cinta already has plans and processes in motion to achieve this. She has additionally showcased her learnings from the previous mandate and was very reflective of the previous three years. The Selection Committee recognises the clear commitment, hard skills and years of experience Cinta has presented in her application and interview.

We do note that there are still areas where we believe Cinta has room to further grow and develop. In particular, we would encourage her to continue building confidence in her own judgement and experience. Cinta is clearly eager to support her staff and volunteers to the greatest extent, yet sometimes leadership is also about making decisions that are not favourable by all. Cinta could benefit from coaching and support on assertiveness in professional settings, but we are also mindful that these dynamics can often be shaped by gendered experiences and expectations. Finally, we recognise that another mandate by Cinta would lead to FYEG finding itself with the same Secretary General for 6 years, which for youth organisations can be seen as quite a long time. Cinta has already addressed possible ways to handle this handover during her interview, which should be worked on alongside the EC.

Serdar Şengezer

Serdar possesses strong political and legal knowledge of the EU and its various institutions, in his application and interview he emphasised different avenues to campaigning and lobbying. He also wishes to bring more activism into the position and to utilise the knowledge which he gained as a member of the Executive Committee and a member of the Beyond Growth Platform to the position of Secretary General.

It was noted that in the scenarios given, Serdar acted with pragmatism and transparency. He has shown confidence and has experience in conflict management from his role as student ombudsman. He understands the precarious position that FYEG has and desires a different approach to the one FYEG is currently taking, focusing on risk management.

Serdar has presented several fundraising ideas, yet the steps to realise the fundraising efforts were not clearly explained or presented and he does not have concrete fundraising or financial management experience.

However, Serdar's motivation for running for this position is currently not clear or not well-developed, and aspects of his vision for the next three years of FYEG are left unclear. His ideas at times lack clear steps and can be seen as more in line with the position of political leadership than Secretary General. When mentioning alternatives in the past years of FYEG, Serdar was clear on wanting a different approach, but how these approaches would look in practice was insufficiently explained and presented. He currently lacks project management experience, and while he is eager to learn, our concern is that the demands of the position of Secretary General pose too high a barrier of entry to learn them at a sufficient enough pace for the position. We also recognise that while he has ideas for management, he does not have professional or volunteer experience in this field and he does not have the HR or staff management experiences that are currently expected of a Secretary General.

While we acknowledge the political knowledge Serdar possesses of the EU and FYEG, the Selection Committee is cautious about their recommendation given the high learning curve of the position, even for candidates with previous experience, as well as the professionalisation FYEG has undergone in the previous period.

Conclusion

With the information given, the Selection Committee has decided to endorse Cinta González Sentís for the position of Secretary General in FYEG.