

EC4 Teun Boswinkel

Proposers:

Agenda item: 3. Candidates for Treasurer

## Introduction

Hey hi everyone!

I am excited to announce my candidacy for treasurer of FYEG. I'm Teun (he/him), a Dutch person living in Brussels for the last 4(ish) years, where I have been active with the Flemish MO Jong Groen as International Secretary for the last 2 years. Before that, I studied in the Netherlands where I spent most of my time outside of the studyhall protesting on the streets and organizing within the climate movement.

Finding and getting to know FYEG, you all, has brought me immense energy and joy. With my candidacy I hope that I can give back to this federation that I feel has given me so much; As treasurer I hope that I can use my experience managing budgets and projects to help guide us through the difficult times ahead. As the world barely holds on today, I am glad to know that FYEG is here. I will help make sure it stays that way, hopefully improving it along the way.

See you in Bolsano,

yours truly

Teun

## Supporters

Lucie Hermans (Ecolo j); Saúl Lara (Juventud Verde)



Member Organisation:  
Jong Groen

## Motivation letter

**Teun Boswinkel**

Dearest everyone,

I am running to be treasurer and a member of the FYEG Executive Committee. It's something that I have thought about for a long time, and have tried to prepare for. I got involved with the people in this European space during the 2024 campaign, before ever being part of an MO, and after having served two terms as International Secretary of Jong Groen, I now feel ready to be a part of the EC. In the motivation letter I describe what drives me, how I got here. In the vision I talk a bit more about my experience and how I will try to apply that in the EC. It would be an honour to continue the work of the many incredible people before me as a member of the Executive Committee, and to take up the responsibility for an unfortunate part of the world; the money.

Revolutions happen in the streets, but a lot of the everyday world is governed by people that can sit through 5 hour long zoning law meetings. At FYEG, I see both, solidly represented. These groups aren't necessarily mutually exclusive either; I have personally always felt torn between the two. I am no stranger to civil disobedience, yet will also accept the municipality's invitation to come share our activists' thoughts. It is a careful balance. It is what I found in FYEG, fighting for joy. It's one of the reasons why I care about this organization so much. It captures the enormous creativity and wide range of strategies that people possess, and are sometimes forced to deploy, as we navigate a world that is misaligned with our values the vast majority of the time. Finding FYEG was knowing I had arrived at what I felt I had been looking for. I know a better world is possible when I see it in the people around me; I am running with that feeling, for that feeling, and to pass it on to as many as will listen.

I am not naively arguing for change from within the system; we have social democrats for that. I do solemnly believe that it is up to us to want better for ourselves than what the current, vile powers that be make the world suffer through. The environmental collapse that we are experiencing as a result of centuries of capitalist and imperialist pillaging is not some coincidence, nor is it the "normal" outcome for people to have arrived at. Genocide does not happen by accident. It is the result of a systemic and deliberate effort, and will take all of us to change.

I have had the privilege of growing up sheltered and without war; I have had the privilege of working with all kinds of incredible people in green and activist spaces over the years. I have studied, I got to learn how to manage projects, teams and budgets in different environments. And for the last 2 years, I had the privilege of being the International Secretary for Jong Groen. Now I want to put all that to use for you, and this federation.

There is a difficult year ahead of us. I hope to contribute to an Executive Committee and to you,

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the MO's the best way I know how: by being constructive, by being hard on systems, and soft on people, by fostering a space where people know that they are heard; especially those people who are not always granted that by default. Change is something you do together. I have enjoyed all the time that I have gotten to spend getting to know the people that make up this organization, and the fact I am running today is a testament to them.

Always here for a chat. We have to stick together.

Love,

Teun

## Vision

**Teun Boswinkel**

Our vision in terms of the political platform of FYEG is not something where I wish to deviate from, in significant ways. Our goal is, and remains, a feminist, diverse, democratic, sustainable and social Europe. Instead, I want to set out my main goals for the coming year as treasurer and how I intend to go about them if you decide to elect me.

We are first and foremost a political organization. As a federation, we have clear objectives; to foster collaboration amongst our MO's, and to represent them and their views as effectively and strategically as possible. In an increasingly hostile political environment across Europe, this fight can be exhausting if we don't come well prepared, and if we don't allow ourselves to breathe occasionally.

It also means looking forward to 2029. I participated as a team leader in the FYEG European election campaign of 2024, where FYEG provided real, concrete support, training as well as a space to exhale for young candidates from all over Europe. If we were able to, it's also because of the large base of volunteers that were mobilized. A lot of effort and preparation went into building that community, and enabling it, us, to help in meaningful ways. Creating a welcoming space and being conscious of intersectionality is a foundational part of that program, as an objective and as a strategy.

A painful result in the Belgian 2024 election was to see Green parties losing seats. Research afterwards showed that specifically, it lost hard with first time voters and young people. A lot of first time voters didn't vote for another party; they just didn't vote all together. Our political parties may or may not choose to try to bring these people back into the fold. But for me, for us, it is an obligation to try.

For my mandate, I see 3 priorities:

1. The (budgetary) path to 2029 and beyond
2. enabling MO's
3. Decolonising the space

## 1. The (budgetary) path to 2029

As you all know, the financial position of FYEG took a big hit missing out on a large subsidy. We have recovered a large part of that deficit thanks to the efforts of the previous EC, but more efforts will be required in the coming year(s) still. In my normal people job, I work as a program manager at the Belgian transmission grid operator Elia. A sizable part of that job is managing, reporting and following up on our operating budget, in a highly scrutinized context where I constantly have to justify expenses to the Belgian energy regulator. I hope that with that I can bring some experience to the role and make clear the trade-offs that budgets sometimes tend to impose, and pave the way with a solid foundation to the elections in 2029 and beyond. I also want to continue the work started with Vita last year of looking into more revenue streams, like donation campaigns and fund applications. I want to help guarantee a workable budget with enough space for emergencies or unexpected setbacks.

I believe our budgetary decisions should reflect our politics. Budgetary decisions are matters of prioritisation, and as treasurer I promise to not prioritise just cost reduction, but to look .

## 2. Enabling MO's

When I first campaigned with FYEG during the 2024 European elections, I had never been part of any MO. During the last 2 years, I have gotten to know my own, Jong Groen, as well as several other MO's, and the challenges we face. Where these challenges are the same, we can learn from, support each other, if we are able to find each other. In the strategic plan 2025-2030 we set out explicitly to politically prioritise FYEG's intervention and support to the MOs based on solidarity, fairness, democracy, and optimisation of resources, which is what I intend to help implement consciously. This means continuous proactive engagement from us as EC, in time as in budgetary decisions, to know where our efforts are needed the most.

An idea I would like to take up and have been conceptualising for some time is an active FYEG alumni network. I think that the community of FYEG'ers and ex-FYEG'ers are a cornerstone of what makes this organization what it is, and if we can find ways for our alumni to be more involved, either through donations or, if they are willing to, through giving trainings and lectures, I think that could prove an enormous benefit. A lot of

alumni already are volunteering, or otherwise contributing informally, but I would like to formalize a structure for people to stay in touch after FYEG (in my ideal world, this could even alleviate some pressure from the budget, if we are able to find for example interesting speakers through such a network).

### **3. Decolonising the space**

We are good at recognising that the diversity is lacking in our representation as a federation. I don't make illusions that my involvement would pose a radical shift, but I do think it's important that we do not leave our education on , and the dismantling of oppressive systems to those people that suffer the most from them. I want to work together with the Racial justice taskforce and create ways for us who do not experience the receiving end of racism and systemic injustice to help decolonise our organisation. Concretely I am thinking of initiatives like organising a volunteer base to actively moderate comment sections, that intervene proactively by managing the platforms of candidates from racialized backgrounds and removing racist comments. I want to find ways to, where possible, shelter those people who take the risk of stepping forward. I think it is really important to offer safe spaces to our members, like a safe space for racialised people, but those should not be the same spaces we rely on exclusively to put in the real labor that change requires, though their voices should be guiding our decisions. The 2024-2027 inclusion plan includes some very concrete and crucial steps like political education & training on antiracism, but next year will also be the final and in that sense defining year of year the program (though of course, it doesn't end there). 'Anti-racist work is the work of all of us, because it concerns us all' we wrote in 2024 and I wholeheartedly agree.

At the time of writing, I am yet to attend the GIRL MO training organised by FYEG on intersectional feminism inside member organisations. I hope to take what I will learn there with me to Jong Groen and help the next board continue the project, but also to apply that during my mandate at FYEG. At the end of my term, I hope to be able to report some progress, and during it to work with the Racial Justice Task Force, FYEG's Office, EC and MOs, to implement the inclusion plan and to shape our inclusion plan for the following years. Since this period is overlapping with the run-up to the elections, I think it should be a fundamental principle

This whole year will also still be a learning process for me. I try to not have my ideas set in stone though I have some strong beliefs about what tomorrow should look like. Of

course, on any and all of this I am happy to discuss with all of you, and always willing to be wrong. If we are not doing this together, then we can only lose sight of what really matters.

**If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far,  
go together"**

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# Teun Boswinkel

## Treasurer Candidate



### Green experience

#### **FYEG - EU election campaign, Team leader** DEC 2023 - JUN 2024

- Worked with FYEG in preparation for/during the 2024 European election campaign

#### **Jong Groen, International Secretary** SEP 2024 - MAY 2026

- Coordinated the Jong Groen attendance and preparation for the GA,
- Advocated for (and secured) more youth representation in Party structure
- Organised (International) events like parliamentary visits, panel discussions, online events and demonstrations

#### **Groen/Zeleni twinning project Steering committee member** Jan 2026 - now

- Coordinating activities connecting the Belgian (Flemish) green party and Serbian Green party
- Organised a visit to the EP in Strasbourg with Jong Groen, Ecolo J & Zelena Omladina

### Broader activist engagement

#### **CORE Member Maastricht 4 Climate** 2018-2020

- Organisation of predominantly students in Maastricht which whom we organised several, demonstrations, workshops, and climate marches
- Engaged with local activists group and part of the Climate Action Network coalition

#### **Local Lobbyist Milieudedefensie (Friends of the Earth)** 2020-2022

#### **Extinction Rebellion** 2021-2022



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## Relevant Professional Experience

### Teaching Assistant, VU Amsterdam (Vrije Universiteit)

2021-2022

- Taught courses in the bachelor Development & Global Challenges

### Policy intern, Institute for Public Economics

The Hague, Summer 2021

- Worked on studies on intergenerational wealth redistribution, taxation & budget policy

### Project manager, INTYSIFY

Brussels, 2023 - now

- Managed projects with a variety of contexts, budgets and areas related to energy and sustainability
- Gave trainings and workshops on sustainability, energy policy and European emission reporting
- Currently working as Project management office at the Belgian Energy Grid Operator working on Security of Supply to facilitate the energy transition
- Managing and structuring working processes, coordinating work, long-term planning
- Administering and reporting on the budget to the Belgian Energy Regulator

## Education

<b>University of Maastricht, University College</b> Honours program bachelor of liberal Arts & Sciences, 2016-2020
<b>Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam</b> Masters in Economics: 2020-2021 <i>Planetary boundaries &amp; energy economics</i>
<b>Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam</b> Masters in Politics Science: 2021-2022 <i>Environmental Governance</i>

## Languages

Dutch - Native

English - C2

French - C2





*Jong Groen vzw  
Van Orleystraat 5-11  
1000 Brussels  
Belgium*

## **Letter of Support for Teun Boswinkel, Candidate Treasurer**

Dear Delegates, International Secretaries and members of FYEG,

As co-presidents of Jong Groen, we proudly and sincerely endorse Teun Boswinkel as candidate for the position of Treasurer in the Executive Committee of the Federation of Young European Greens.

Over the last 2 years, we've had the opportunity to work with Teun in the national board of Jong Groen, where we've seen him take action, responsibility and leadership from the very first moments on. Serving as our International Secretary, he included our members in European topics and politics, and invested in strengthening our connections with EcoloJ (our Belgian French speaking friends and colleagues) and other FYEG member organizations. We witnessed his passion for European politics up close, and saw how Teun was a strong advocate and organizer for an inclusive organisation, e.g. by joining the Jong Groen working group that re-evaluated and elevated our internal policies on inclusivity and accessibility.

But even beyond his role as international secretary, Teun was there to advise other members of the board, to help set up grassroots actions and to help out wherever possible. His fundamental understanding of political systems, political ecology and community-organizing made him a real asset in our board and in the deep diving discussions on many subjects.

We were pleasantly surprised when Teun shared the news that he's running for FYEG Treasurer, as we're confident that he'll bring these same values and experiences to new levels, and can become the same trusted partner within the Executive Committee that he's been to our National Board. He's someone you can trust and count on, and his dedication is inspiring.

With his experience in Jong Groen and as a familiar face within the FYEG family, Teun is highly qualified to take on the role of Treasurer, and we look forward to seeing him thrive in this position. We therefore endorse his candidacy with much trust, pride and enthusiasm.

With kind and green regards

And with the wish for the best possible Executive Committee,

Daan Reydams & Liv Onkelinx  
*Co-Presidents of Jong Groen*