

Eleanor Morrissey

Motivation Letter

It has been an honour and a real joy to be part of the FYEG Executive Committee this past year. We have refocused how a European organisation can support young greens more locally after the European elections and during the COVID-19 pandemic, constantly adapting while holding true to the FYEG's principles. We have encountered difficulties, but I was always impressed by my fellow board members on how we managed to still push FYEG forward. It is through what I have learnt this past year, and what I hope to achieve next, that I am rerunning to be part of FYEG's Executive Committee, but this time as a co-spokesperson. This way I can use my experience (and love) of FYEG to help steer our organisation to be even more forthright, proactive, and inclusive.

I oversaw the Social Rights work plan and the Social Europe Working Group, guiding them to develop plans in line with FYEG's strategy, including a resolution on the gig economy which I successfully defended at the EGP Council. With the working group I also helped them to create communications on the refugee crisis, establish a podcast and shape the working group to their own interests. Advocating for social justice is at the core of my values, something that I would bring to FYEG's work to make our campaigns resonate with more young people.

I am happy to have brought cooperation with Global Young Greens closer, and for this next mandate I hope to continue working together for COP and future projects while boosting the visibility of GYG within FYEG. I had the pleasure to help organise the MO Training and Forum, and the coordination of our Lockdown Lounge webinar series. Our capacity and knowledge building are amazing achievements of FYEG, which I hope to develop and reuse through more online and offline resources, working closer with MOs as well as GYG and CDN for knowledge sharing and facilitation.

I had the displeasure to communicate the FYEG stance on Brexit as it happened after many delays. But it was a huge joy to mobilise plenty of "Fuck Brexit" messages in solidarity, and to help host a webinar with our rainy isle MOs. We are not an EU organisation but a European one, and promoting international solidarity is at the heart of what I want to do.

Since the new year, I have helped us develop our System Change Campaign: identifying our primary goals and developing a strategy to make one kick-ass campaign, while adapting it to reflect the terrible impact of COVID-19. I want to continue this, working with

the amazing team and to push an ambitious but achievable campaign that calls for social and climate justice.

I am also keen to represent the young green voice to our partners, as I have experience being the sole representative of this voice in different rooms, advocating for our ideas and encouraging more ambitious and strategic thinking. As a member of the Global Greens Coordination, I am used to calling for bigger and better ideas. I would love to push the European Green Party to take stances on UBI, drug policy, free healthcare, and the right to protest while fighting for climate policies. To continue working with our Young MEPs to share their expertise and campaigns with FYEGers, while creating resources and trainings for MOs to boost youth representation in their national parties and politics.

The pandemic has forced us to not only re-examine society's structures, but also FYEG's. We must now become more equipped and adapted to online learning that still maintains the safe space and close interactions of our live activities. We are feminist and welcoming, but we must implement long term strategies to support our office and volunteers to create a more inclusive, accessible, and anti-racist FYEG. This should be done closely with our MOs, which is the only way to decolonise the Greens.

For me, being part of FYEG is about expanding the family and building the skills of members while maintaining close relations and safe and inclusive spaces. I want to continue creating that space for support and to help us enter new beginnings. Being on the FYEG board requires a lot of dedication to your laptop, meetings, and travel. This past year I set and broke my personal record for meetings in a week, strove to provide detailed information and feedback for those who asked, juggled multiple tasks and kept to deadlines to help FYEG keep on track for its goals. All while balancing a full-time job and other volunteer commitments. I can dedicate the hours to see the completion and continuation of our projects and goals through close cooperation with the Office. I also know how to get out there and make our voice louder. I know when to push ideas, to help convince older generations to be a bit more fun with ideas. I want to help create an environment of sharing ideas and building confidence in young greens as FYEG has done with me.

Best wishes,
Eleanor