



# **BUILDING PAN-EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY: PERSPECTIVES FROM EASTERN EUROPE**

ADOPTED AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF FEDERATION OF YOUNG EUROPEAN GREENS

ISTANBUL, TURKEY, AUGUST 2019

The 2019 European Elections demonstrated that Greens have become a considerable political power in the EU and we have Green Wave materialized in some EU Member States as well. With the climate crisis being fought for becoming a priority in the EU and outside, also major established political parties falling short on people's expectations, it is projected that Greens will gain more traction in the foreseeable future. This year Greens group in the European Parliament has 75 MEPs that gives them more leverage to engage and further Green agenda on the EU and Member States levels as well as outside the Union. Especially, Green MEPs that are subscribed to the relevant committees working on the EU external policies will be able to position themselves and contribute to the policy-making for the non-EU countries. And hopefully, with the coming years, Greens will be able to significantly shape and influence the decision-making in the EU institutions.

Federation of Young European Greens role in the upcoming years will also be shifted towards more policy-oriented interventions and close cooperation with the Greens in the European Parliament and European Green Party in order to voice and equally deliver to young people in the EU. Nonetheless, FYEG being an umbrella organisation comprises members coming from the EU Member States as well as covers membership from non-EU countries (notably, most Eastern European Member Organisations are striving outside party politics framework. Most of them are NGOs and do not have bonds and relation with Green (mother) parties). While the prospects of Green movement and especially young Greens in the EU seem more clear and hopeful, Eastern Europe due to lack of regionalisation and platforming opportunities renders it impossible for young Greens coming from non-EU countries to engage or draw meaningful political conclusions with and from FYEG in an equal footing as their counterparts from the EU member states. In reference to the youth in Eastern Europe, it should not go unmentioned that young people are in the forefront of change or demanding change in Eastern Europe: In 2018 Armenia's peaceful revolution was brought by young people showing their utmost disobedience after decades of silence and conformism. Besides, Georgia's political system went through meaningful political changes that makes it possible for young people and new political movements to penetrate established political structures. In other countries of Eastern Europe, we see young people striving to shape their present and future and reclaim their rights captured by authoritarian figures or shrinking regimes. We should not forget that change is in the process of making in Eastern Europe and we as Greens should promote and support it as well as get ready for seizing the right momentum for materializing Green Wave in Eastern Europe.

With this resolution, we aim to form a solid foundation for building genuine pan-European solidarity in, with and through FYEG with its Member Organisations (MOs) from Eastern Europe and bigger Green structures, such as the Greens group in the European Parliament and European Greens Party. We believe that this resolution will promote advocacy efforts of young Greens coming from Eastern Europe to wider Green family as well as incentivize them to get closely engaged in politics and at least attempt to influence policies in their respective countries through the leverage of international networks.

With this resolution, we call for action in FYEG to:

1. Show political will to build genuine solidarity among its EU and non-EU membership;
2. Invest FYEG's capacity (in terms of political will and human resources) in connecting its Member Organisations coming from Eastern Europe with the relevant wider Green structures, such as relevant Green MEPs in the European Parliament (those who are in the Foreign Affairs Committee and are following the developments and policies in EU accession countries, potential candidate countries, Eastern Partnership, Russia working groups) and Green European Party;
3. Build engagement strategy with non-EU countries and its non-EU MOs that entails FYEG following EU accession talks as well as the EU's Eastern Partnership (EaP) agenda negotiations, and before voting and discussions in the European Parliament regarding non-EU countries, consult with its MOs coming from respective countries;
4. FYEG's EC responsible for Member Organisations coming from Eastern Europe to have a special role aiming at liaising between non-EU MOs and wider Green family, especially Greens in the European Parliament and European Green Party in order to facilitate young Greens advocacy efforts as well as support their political maturity process through exchange of views, opinions and voicing young Eastern Europeans;
5. FYEG's EC responsible for Member Organisations coming from Eastern Europe to serve as a focal point between Green MEPs focused on the countries concerned and connect them with young Greens during relevant country missions so that, young Greens also have their concerns voiced and position themselves when it comes to understanding their realities and views;
6. FYEG's EC responsible for Member Organisations coming from Eastern Europe to cooperate closely with FYEG's sister organisation - Cooperation and Development Network for Eastern Europe (CDN) in order to bring FYEG's umbrella topics and campaigns closer and adjusted to the context of Eastern Europe and reinforce existing ties between these organisations;

With this little adjustments in the FYEG, we intend to bring Eastern European MOs strategically closer to wider Green family and incentivize them to meaningfully engage with the international networks as well as use all the opportunities available before them in order to bring the change we have been striving for and will still go on.

We believe that Greens and especially young Greens have always been at the forefront of cultivating and reinforcing solidarity within and between societies. This resolution is only a small step to further our solidarity efforts and direct it into more strategic and best possible manner, and we are hopeful, with us fighting for our present and future, we will see better days, only through and with solidarity and mutual actions.

