



# THE FUTURE OF YOUNG GREENS IN THE GREEN POLITICAL MOVEMENT: WE WILL STAY DISOBEDIENT!

ADOPTED AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF FEDERATION OF YOUNG EUROPEAN GREENS  
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The European elections of May 2019 were the climate elections. In the months leading to the elections young people rose up in unforeseen numbers. They have been brave, they have been calling out the ignorance of mainstream parties on what are the most crucial challenges our societies are facing today. They reclaimed their future. At every step of the journey, we were with them, joining them in the streets, spreading a shared message throughout the continent.

Also thanks to their action, we now have 75 MEPs the biggest Green Group the European Parliament has ever seen. This is a strong mandate and a real chance to push for substantial changes. But as Young Greens we should not and will not satisfy ourselves with these victories. We know that the real work is starting now - in the institutions as much as on the streets.

What we know after the spring of 2019 is that a new Europe is already in the making. The Green political movement can and must be at the forefront of these developments. To support this massive European climate movement in reaching its full potential, we will set out three commitments for our own action in the coming years:

## **We will stay disobedient.**

We will stay in close cooperation with local and European climate movements. From Extinction Rebellion to Ende Gelände, Code Rood and Limity jsme my to Fridays for Future, the European climate movement is alive and kicking. We expect many more similar initiatives to emerge in the coming years, European and local. We recognize that without the tireless work of all these activists, we would have never gotten to a Green Group of this size. It is thanks to these movements that our Young Greens MEPs got elected. Their support and work on the ground will be crucial in order to further societal demand for change and allow us to push successfully for truly ambitious climate policies in the political institutions.

We will keep motivating our activists to engage in protests, strikes, occupations, blockades as well as other forms of nonviolent direct action. We will keep following closely European initiatives like the Global Strike for Climate or "By 2020 We Rise Up" and will join their actions on the ground. We will keep motivating Young Greens to be the driving force in these movements and that in particular in societies where Green Parties are struggling or non-existent. In doing so, we will strive to take an approach of "backing not fronting", giving a platform to these movements and amplifying their voices.

We will ask which support is needed and welcome and we will be creative in filling the gaps, for example, by offering our elected MEPs as parliamentary observers during actions. We will refrain from self-promotion in situations where such is not welcomed by the movement and we will not take undue credit for other people's actions. At the same time, we will always keep looking for and empowering climate activists who wish to enter the political sphere and will make sure they can easily find their home in the Green political family.

### **We will continue to take the Green movement further.**

Our Green MEPs were elected with a strong mandate for change. During our European election campaign, we presented a common European Manifesto making ambitious proposals for how to change Europe. We have denounced numerous times the status quo, business as usual politics of mainstream parties. We know that it is the status quo politics which is the first to blame for the rise of the far right. We know that they are also to blame for the mismanagement of the climate crisis. We will keep fighting for a completely different Europe, a Europe that is sustainable, social, feminist, welcoming and inclusive.

The election results and the victories of Green parties, especially among younger voters, place in front of us not only a particular chance but also a particular responsibility. There are high expectations on the Green political movement. We are eager for change and have high expectations on our movement, as well. For the future successes of the Green movement, it is pivotal that Green parties who get into positions of responsibility manage to deliver on the promised agenda for change. As Young Greens, we have a particularly good understanding of the issues important to young people and wish to work with parent parties to share this understanding and live up to the expectations. For this reasons, we will stay in close cooperation with Green Parties, in particular the European Green Party, and the Green MEPs in Greens/EFA. When needed, we will be also challenging our parent parties, we will keep reminding them of our electoral promises, we will be their internal voice for integrity. But above all, we will keep challenging ourselves. We will continue imagining a different Europe, a Europe where everyone is equal and where future generations have a future to look forward to. We will continue developing Green thinking and action in the fields of feminism, freedom of movement, digital rights, emancipation of the precariat, transnational solidarity and - most urgently - carbon-neutral societies.

### **We will keep fighting for just transition and connect the fight against climate crisis with other societal struggles.**

In order to get the society as a whole on board behind ambitious climate action, we will always keep fighting for those who are the most marginalized today. We will be fighting for a just transition and while acknowledging the urgency of the climate crisis, we will keep focussing on promoting a positive vision for a sustainable Europe. We are fighting for a society of abundance and high quality of life - with access to clean water, energy, transport and food for everyone - not one of scarcity. Knowing that 100 companies are responsible for 80% of global greenhouse gas emission, we will not be satisfied with demands and proposals for individual action to address the climate crisis. We will keep



critically scrutinizing the current economic system, its growth-based logic and its implications for organizing our societies. We will keep consistently demanding system change.

Lastly, we will uphold the recognition that the climate struggle is intertwined with other social justice struggles. We will stay in solidarity with organizations and activists who are structurally marginalized in our societies. We recognize that people from the Global South will be increasingly forced to migrate due to the climate crisis and we will stand in solidarity with refugees. We recognize that activists in different regions of Europe have different opportunities for organizing themselves. We will pay particular focus on supporting activists and movements in these regions, recognizing and highlighting that climate activism is on the rise also in these parts of Europe. We also recognize that it is increasingly women\* who are at the forefront of the climate struggle. We will keep our work on empowering women, trans and genderqueer activists to stand up for their future. Lastly, we will strive to support other marginalized groups to find their way in the climate movement.

2019 is the year when we realize the growing power of progressive movements for change, be it on climate, feminism, worker's rights, migrants' rights, young people's access to social rights or other socio-economic struggles. With the climate breakdown becoming an everyday reality, with young people struggling to make ends meet, with Neonazis in the streets and, even more worryingly, in the institutions of power, with women\* being harassed in the streets, worker's, especially from marginalised groups, exploited on a daily basis, and refugees dying in the Mediterranean, we reaffirm the need as well as our readiness to keep pushing for a different Europe. In the next five years, we will keep pushing. We will be making change in institutions of power, we will be making change on the streets. We are unstoppable, another world is possible!

