

Motivational letter Wanja Kaufmann

Candidacy for the Executive Committee of the FYEG

Dear Green friends!

With this letter I would like to ask for your support for my candidacy and to share my motivations to be a member of the Executive Committee of the Federation of Young European Greens for the rest of the coming term until the General Assembly 2020. This letter also gives an overview of my vision for the organization (which will additionally be more structured stated in a separate vision outline document).

As engaged in the green movement for many years (it's a whole decade now! Crazy how time flies), and especially throughout the last couple of years, being the international secretary of Grön Ungdom (the Swedish Young Greens) — a position that I left in February 2020 — I've seen and experienced the power that international cooperation has in spreading the green message and in mobilizing people for our green, inclusive and humanitarian values. I have though also seen (and not least experienced!) the disruptions existing between Greens in different parts of the world and not least between Greens in Europe. The Swedish (Young) Greens, where I've "grown up", has for example (just as well as the Nordic Green Parties overall) for a long time been rather distanced from the stronger Green European movement in central Europe — much probably because of non-understanding of, and non-belief in, how much we can learn from others. The Nordic hubris has unfortunately shut down many possibilities and much potentially fruitful cooperation throughout the years.

I believe that the Green European movement, not least the young one, must be a movement that sticks together, despite the many differences that we experience among us, both in terms of organizational structure and in terms of political priorities. Our national focuses might not always be the same (and it doesn't need to be — our societies do to a certain extent experience different challenges), but our overall fight for a better world is, and so are border-crossing topics such as climate change, peace and security, migration and equality. I believe that we can learn so much from each other, and that the only way to grow stronger is to take advantage of our different competences, experiences and best practices that we have among our different organizations. One of the main things I want to work for in the Executive Committee is therefore strengthened cohesion between our member organizations — everyone, whether from the north, the south, the east or the west, shall feel like a obvious and natural part of the FYEG, and everyone shall feel close to their European siblings, from wherever they might be.

Another thing that I want to work for in the Executive Committee is continuity — over the last couple of years, the turnover of EC members and spokespersons has been large, and I am convinced that this hinders the organization to be as good, powerful and efficient as it can be. To be able to keep up a consisting legitimacy, the Executive Committee must be able to set strategies stretching over several years and set up long-term goals that the organization can strive to achieve. To be able to work efficiently with these goals and strategies, there is a need

for Executive Committee members keeping their positions for longer periods of time. My ambition is therefore, if I get elected and re-elected, to stay in the Executive Committee for at least two years (so at least until the General Assembly 2022). To be as transparent as possible, I already want to say that I am going to be studying abroad (in Amman, Jordan) between september and december 2020, which means that I will need to participate online in the EC work during these months. Until september, and from january on again, I will be in Europe and be able to participate in physical meetings (if corona lets us).

To provide a short record of my earlier engagement within the green movement, I have, as mentioned earlier in this letter, been a member of the Young Greens and the Greens since 2010 (I joined when I was fourteen). I've been active on both a local, regional and national level, and between 2017-2020 I was responsible for the Swedish Young Greens' international business and international policy development, as the international secretary of the organization. During the Swedish national election year 2018, I worked with international topics and was responsible for contact with voters at the Greens' parliamentary office. Today, I am part of the Greens delegation to the EGP councils (2017-present) and am a board member of Green Forum, a developmental aid organization affiliated with the Swedish Green Party, funding party building in Sub-saharan Africa, Latin America, Eastern Europe and Caucasus. Beyond my partisan engagement, I am currently enrolled in a master in humanitarian action, and I have plans to later on in life work with humanitarian assistance, preferably in the field. Regarding earlier experience with project planning, members relations, board work and international organizations I've acquired plenty of this throughout the years in which I've been active in, and working for, the green movement in different constellations.

Some endnotes: So far during the spring 2020, the corona crisis has confronted us with many challenges. One is the bad crisis preparedness we have in Europe. Another is the growing tendencies of returning nationalism and growing patriotism that we can see now that more and more inwards in their crisis responses. Both these challenges are challenges that the Green movement can take on and has answers to, as long as we do it *together*. New times need new, progressive movements, taking on modern challenges with modern, progressive policies. And that is exactly what we're gonna do.

Thank you for taking your time — I hope that you will deem me a good candidate! Now let's take on 2020 together!

/Wanja