

Vision outline FYEG Wanja Kaufmann

As highlighted in my motivational letter, I do see FYEG as an extremely important organization which is highly needed in the European political sphere, and which is also proving this by gathering Young Greens from all over the continent to work for a more sustainable, equal and humane Europe. I do though see great possibilities of becoming an even more efficient and effective organization, in terms of both coherence but also influence. Two of the big challenges that we are facing are a lacking degree of *common identity/cooperativeness* within the federation and a low degree of *continuity* within the Executive Committee (including specific positions). Another thing I want to work for is increased *medial presence*, (which though also depends a lot on the progress in the other two areas).

With this document I aim to in a clear and structured way map out some of the things I want to focus on during my time in the executive committee. Obviously, I will need to get to know the working structures of the EC better, and to adapt to those in forming the actual practical outlining of the following ambitions, but with this outline I hope to be able to provide the member organizations with a sense of what my focus will be as an EC member.

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Common identity/cooperativeness

To create a stronger common identity and increase the degree of cooperativeness, all member organizations (regardless from where in Europe they might be and regardless of what degree of parliamentaristic/activist tradition they are used to, among other things) must feel that the FYEG provides a space for sharing and developing their interests, and that the organizations is representative of their members just as well as of members from other member organizations. All member organization also need to feel that there are good platforms for easy accessible international engagement, direct and democratic channels for influence between the general assemblies and other statutory meetings and easy possibilities to interact with other member organizations on an everyday level. Some of the things I want to work for as an EC member are the following:

- The creation of sub-federations where it is relevant and applicable (One example of an early try to create this are the Nordic Young Greens, *Grön Ungdom i Norden*, which so far gathers young greens from Sweden, Norway and Finland). These sub-federations could be made up of (not too many) organizations who are close to each other geographically and/or who have experienced similar green organizational traditions, and might work as good platforms for very easy accessible interaction with other young greens from other countries. They might also be able to help each other in the preparation of events on a federal level (for example the General Assembly).

- A more clear structure for check-ups with the member organizations. Today, every EC member is (as I've understood it), responsible for contact with some member organizations (often together with another EC member). This is good, but these contact persons can also be used in more efficient ways than they are today. Instead of just having common chat groups who are to a large extent (even if not only) used as one way information channels, the contacts person should have a clearer and more structured mandate, calling for among other things regular (suggested: monthly) check-ups with each of their assigned MOs, ensuring better possibilities for the FYEG and the MOs to stay up to date with what is happening in the respective organization (emails are often great, but not always read, unfortunately), but also ensuring regular possibilities for the MOs to communicate what they want, expect and need from the FYEG and their FYEG membership, therefore making the EC more representative. I'm convinced that better (mutual) insight and more frequent (personal) communication between the MOs and the EC is one of many important keys for making the FYEG more transparent and more democratic.

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Continuity

To foster an even higher level of professionalism (the EC is already very professional, but more can be done) within the organization, there is a need of keeping both valuable knowledge and important contact networks within the organization for a longer period of time. With much of this knowledge and these networks being tied to certain persons, it is difficult to keep it within the organization when the turnover of people holding of positions is very high. 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, and to in turn achieve this, the EC-work must be made sure to be sustainable. Some of the things I want to work for as an EC member are the following:

- Make the EC membership more flexible. Meeting in person is an important thing for team building and for the efficiency of an organization. A lot of traveling might though also be a factor making it less attractive for persons (not least from countries geographically more distant) to both candidate for a position in the EC at all, and not least to re-candidate. The ambition to meet in person is something that might in many situations be worth striving for, but something that must at the same time be carefully weighed against sustainability factors (such as mental/human sustainability). Online participation should in as many cases as possible be an opportunity.
- Investigate the possibilities to compensate the spokespersons financially to some degree. To be an active spokesperson requires hard work, and to be able to fully make the most of their important mandate, a spokesperson needs to both have the time and the energy to put into their role and their work. Today, without financial

compensation, the spokespersons often need to have some other source of income, which will most likely take a lot of time that could otherwise have been put on the spokesperson work. This hinders the holders of the positions to reach their full potential as spokespersons — they can't realistically be as responsive, as reactive and as active as they could have been if they wouldn't have needed to have another source of income to put time on beside the work as spokespersons. Also, the need for “double work” while being spokesperson, taking large amounts of energy, might create a lot of tiredness and the person might not be very willing to pull through with another year. For both of the reasons above (the possibility of being truly active and have better time-wise possibilities to actively develop, represent and improve the FYEG, and the incentives for staying for longer than one operational year), I would strongly want to investigate the possibilities to compensate the spokespersons financially to some degree.

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Medial presence

The FYEG makes up an important actor when it comes to influencing the politics the EGP and our member organizations' respective mother parties, but it also makes up an important actor when it comes to influencing the European popular debate. To truly take advantage of, and make the most out of, this role, the ambitions regarding medial presence (not social media in this case — when it comes to that, the FYEG presence is great — but rather classic media) must grow. As there are few pan-European medial channels this might be a challenge. But there are several ways to become more present in media. Some of the things I want to work for as an EC member are the following:

- More common attempts of international co-writing on border-crossing topics:
Already today, the FYEG is sometimes sending out pre-written messages/manifests/documents that member organizations are encouraged to spread through their channels. This is great, and much inspiration can be drawn from this. Many member organizations do already today have experience of writing debate articles for publication in national media channels. By continuing to use these already established channels but start to co-write debate articles with representatives from other member organizations and the FYEG spokespersons, important messages on important issues (just as well as a clear meta-message that we are a strong, border-crossing young green movement) can get great simultaneous spread without much effort (as the channels are already there). The EC could facilitate this in two ways, by:
 - Administrative support for bottom-up initiatives; the member organizations can reach out to their contact person in the EC when they want to co-write something with other MOs and/or the spokespersons. The contact person will then help the MO to coordinate the cooperation with other MOs and possibly the spokespersons.
 - Regular top-down coordination; *Every time* there is happening something big that is affecting (several, many or all) countries where the FYEG has member

organizations and where there is a clear advantage of voicing a green perspective (which is more often than we might think), the spokespersons are preparing an article in english that is then communicated to the MOs directly by their assigned contact person and translated by the MO before it is (sought to be) published in national media with both the FYEG spokespersons and the MO's spokespersons as signatories.

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Last but definitely not least, I am a strong believer in that **the EC membership is a representative one** — to be an member of the Executive Committee is to represent the member organization, not something you do to just realize all your own ideas or to climb up the career ladder. I want to highlight that **your regular inputs will be most highly valued** and that **you are always free to contact me** to talk about how the federation and its work can develop and be improved.