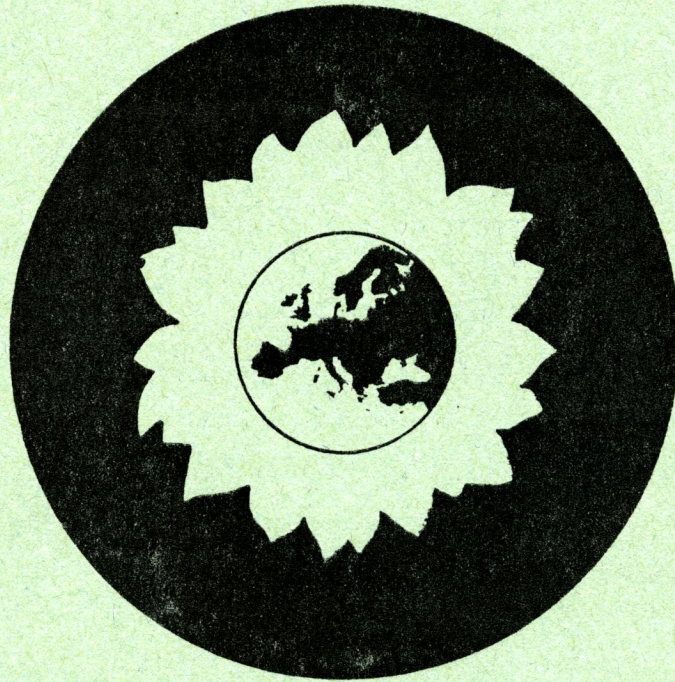


# THE EUROPEAN GREENS



THINK GLOBALLY – ACT LOCALLY

TOWARDS A GREEN EUROPE

THE PROGRAMME OF THE EUROPEAN GREENS



## THINK GLOBALLY - ACT LOCALLY

### TOWARDS A GREEN EUROPE

#### The Programme of the European Greens

##### 1. INTRODUCTION

- a. Europe has been the scene of many of the central political dramas of recent history.
- b. The problems which Europe now faces either confront or will confront advanced industrial societies throughout the world. These problems include the failure of the democratic process at various levels, the unjust distribution of income and work, inflation, unbridled economic growth, the relationship between productivity and pollution, the build-up of nuclear weapons in spite of the desire for peace, and the conflicts of regionalism with centralisation and of the needs of the individual with those of society.
- c. The way in which Europe faces the choices and solutions available will be important to the rest of the world.

##### 2. THE EUROPEAN "UNITY" WE HAVE

- a. After the shattering experiences of the two world wars there was an obvious will for European unity. The objectives of this unity were to end the wars and the harmful economic rivalries which were wasting Europe's cultural and political energies and influence.
- b. In the event, the more profound unity envisaged gave way to a grouping of nations committed to pursuing the economic policies of an expansionist industrial society.
- c. The European Economic Community (E.E.C.), having merged with the European Coal and Steel Community (E.C.S.C.) and the European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM), became the dominant European organisation, committed to economic growth and a long term political aim to create a supranational Europe.



- d. As expansionist (growth) economics collapse in the face of both global constraints (resources, energy, markets) and local constraints (unemployment, worsening social conditions, pollution) the long term aim recedes as the member nations become increasingly self interested.
- e. The now undisputed inherent instability of such "unity" is hideously compounded by the presence of nuclear weapons, ensuring that serious breakdown of any sort in Europe would probably lead to nuclear war.
- f. The extremely unwieldy and highly undemocratic bureaucracy of The European Commission and Council of Ministers, beyond the control and serious influence of the European Parliament (whose members are not, in all countries, democratically elected) nevertheless continues to pursue increasingly damaging industrial economic and social policies, sacrificing the environment and the individual to the interests of an exploitive economic system.
- g. The economic policies of the countries of the E.E.C. lead to :
  - misuse and destruction of the land ;
  - increasing loss of opportunity for work ;
  - exploitation of the Third World.

In fact these policies are hostile to humanity and the environment and create international tensions which increase the likelihood of war.

### 3. THE EUROPEAN GREENS

- a. The last ten years has seen the development of Green Parties in many European countries, representing the political expression of a much larger and very diverse Green Movement.
- b. This Green Movement grew up in response to the planet's many signals that neither its peoples nor itself could tolerate abuse and exploitation for much longer.
- c. Although Green political initiative has developed independently in each country, we have each identified that the root cause of these signals is the consumer based, industrial societies of the "developed" world and the old-fashioned, exploitative economics that propel them.
- d. We have also recognised that if there is to be any hope for the future then new ideas must evolve. We must move on from competitive straining towards economic growth which disregards the cost in terms of world resources and human misery. We must move to co-operation in economic and social planning that, at all levels, holds paramount the conserving of the delicate balance between the planet, its resources, its peoples and its animals in all their enormous diversity.



- e. By coming to these conclusions the Greens of Europe have also come together and are working closely to offer the first fresh and completely new political initiative for over 100 years.
- f. Our guiding commitment will always be the peaceful survival of humanity in a safe and sustainable global environment, not just for the next 5 or 10 years, but for the generations to come.

#### 4. A GREEN EUROPE

- a. Working from this commitment we reject the present attempt to promote Europe as another centralised economic and military power block and instead seek the development of a Europe of Regions, free from the division imposed by artificial borders and working together to conserve and develop their cultural and physical diversity.
- b. This means that decisions must be made not by centralised institutions but at the level where the consequences of those decisions will be felt. It means true democracy.
- c. It means seeking personal responsibility to our community and to the rest of the world. It means acting in a way which recognises that all people matter equally.
- d. It means a shift from plundering the earth for short term gains to protecting and saving its precious resources.
- e. It means a total rejection of all weapons of mass destruction and a move towards a neutral stance, supported by social and non-violent civilian defence.
- f. In short, it means putting a morality and a soul back, not only into politics, but also into our lives.
- g. The Green Parties of Europe, together with like-minded people and groups everywhere, will work to promote the ideas and will press for the practical reforms laid out in this programme.

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## THE PROGRAMME

### 1. PEACE - TOWARDS PEACE IN EUROPE, BASED ON THE CORNERSTONE OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN ALL PEOPLES

Peace is a prerequisite for environmental survival. For this reason we call on the European Parliament to implement the 1977 Geneva Convention which requires that environmental weapons be prohibited under international law and politically outlawed. These weapons include not merely chemical and bacteriological weapons, but nuclear weapons too.

The European Parliament could work in close co-operation with the extra-parliamentary peace movement to give the idea of alternative defence a fresh impetus. The starting point for peace in Europe must lie in the impassioned commitment to prevent a third and nuclear world war.

Therefore we jointly propose :

- Immediate disarmament measures, both in the East and the West ;
- New concepts of disarmament, which include well thought out unilateral preliminary concessions ;
- A Europe free from ABC weapons (Atomic, Biological and Chemical weapons) ;
- The immediate convening of a pan-European disarmament conference which fully represents the view of the people of Europe ;
- A European agency for disarmament rather than for armaments
- The elimination of military blocs ;
- The eventual replacement of military concepts of defence by civilian and social ones.

In summary, in the nuclear age our dependence upon nuclear defence strategies leads to self-destruction, genocide and ultimately to the destruction of all life.



## 2. ENVIRONMENT - TOWARDS A POLICY OF ECOLOGICAL BALANCE WHICH WILL NOT STOP AT NATIONAL OR EUROPEAN BORDERS, AND WHICH WILL ENSURE THE BASIC CONDITIONS OF LIFE

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As one of the wealthiest and most technologically advanced regions of our planet, Europe ought to be in a position to take precautionary measures in favour of the environment. To date the policy of the European institutions in the environmental field has limited itself to technological solutions, which attempt merely to correct the superficial symptoms, rather than to remove the socio-political causes of environmental damage. Causes of such problems as acid rain, contamination of the soil, pollution of river and seas, atmospheric pollution and radiation which know no national or European boundaries, are not even exposed by these institutions.

Therefore we propose :

- Democratic and socially responsible research and economic development, which is especially committed to restoring and preserving the ecological balance ;
- Effective measures to control "transnational" pollution, especially immediate action on acid rain and pollution of the rivers and the seas ;
- A sparing approach in our dealing with continually dwindling resources, in order that our children and all future generations may enjoy a future worthy of human-kind ;
- Environmental protection measures that cross national frontiers ;
- A health policy that shifts resources to the promotion of good health and disease prevention.

The existing European energy policy with its orientation towards a centralised production of energy and the promotion of nuclear energy does not serve the needs of the regions. It causes environmental damage, constitutes a security risk for wide areas and saddles future generations with unresolved waste disposal problems.

Therefore we propose :

- Strict provisions for the protection of the environment regarding the use of central power stations, in particular those which already exist ;
- An immediate halt to the construction of all nuclear power stations, and the decommissioning of existing ones ;
- Renunciation of the Euratom Treaty and the reallocation of its funds ;
- The development of energy-saving technology and the promotion of environmentally compatible and decentralised (locally produced) energy generation from wind, sun, tides, biomass and other sources, instead of suicidal nuclear technology ;
- An immediate examination of the problems of nuclear waste dumping, and tighter restrictions on the use of dumping sites.



### 3. SOCIETY AND ECONOMICS - TOWARDS AN ECOLOGICALLY RESPONSIBLE AND HUMANE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC POLICY

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We want a Europe which rejects unsustainable economic growth as a goal for its own sake.

Therefore we jointly stand for :

- The creation of personally fulfilling, socially desirable ecologically sustainable work, by means of investment in the fields of energy, recycling, health, housing and transport ;
- A change in the allocation of subsidies to guarantee the creation of ecologically meaningful and non-alienating jobs ;
- Support and expansion of decentralised economically viable regional units ;
- Equality of opportunity and choice for men and women ;
- Production on an ecologically appropriate scale ;
- A just sharing of work and income on a more co-operative basis within a democratic economy ;
- Reasonable actions aimed at breaking the power of the multinationals, with particular emphasis on exposing the strategies of these companies which exploit the Third World ;
- A rationalisation of tax systems taking special account of resource use and prevention of waste.

Economic problems inherent in the system cannot be mastered at the national or European level alone. This is why the Greens are suggesting a form of European economic and social policy which will permit equitable relations with the peoples of the Third World.



#### 4. AGRICULTURE - TOWARDS AN AGRICULTURE IN BALANCE WITH NATURE

The common agricultural policy results in monocultures and economic concentration. To date, food processing companies, industrial agri-factories, carriers of goods, etc. have benefited.

The ruin of small and medium sized family farms, the exploitation of soil and animals, surplus production and the ensuing destruction of foodstuffs are the consequences of the Treaty of Rome. Low cost imports of feedstuffs for our meat production and the demand for cash crops result in large-scale plantations dependent on the world markets, as well as impoverishment and hunger in the exporting third world countries.

Therefore we propose :

- Support for a socially and environmentally sound agriculture through research, advice, education and finance for a gradual transition to an agriculture free from use of artificial fertilizers and chemical pesticides, respecting the ecological cycles and aimed at regional self-reliance in food ;
- That the production and distribution be based on the premise that all people should have access to high quality food, with high nutritional value, good taste and no residual poisons ;
- That the breeding of large numbers of animals in a small area, without even room to move, should be abolished. A humane environment is more important than the production of artificially cheap food ;
- That present pricing systems and subsidies be replaced by measures that allow small and medium scale, low-energy, mixed and ecological food production to thrive, and avoid needless surpluses ;
- That steps are taken to regenerate the social and economic structure by encouraging more localised and sustainable employment in agriculture, allied services and other rural occupations ;
- That the livelihood and welfare of the rural workforce must be protected ;
- That direct links between producers and consumers be encouraged ;
- That we in the industrialised world take responsibility for our own production of food and refrain from trade which undermines the third world's capability to feed itself.



## 5. ONE WORLD OR NONE - TOWARDS AN HONEST SHARING OF THE EARTH'S PROSPERITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF THE THIRD WORLD

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The colonial exploitation of past centuries and the suppression of numerous peoples fighting for self-determination has laid a heavy burden of guilt on Europe. Our wealth today is still largely founded on the poverty of the Third World. The E.E.C. still acts as a self-seeking - at times charitable - exploiter of the countries of Latin-America, Africa and Southern Asia, although all the financial, technical and political means exist to develop jointly an equitable partnership in the common interest.

Together we stand for :

- A world peace which will guarantee for all the peoples of the world the right to self-determining ecological development ;
- Increased aid to self-help in the Third World ;
- An ecological world economic order which will allow the structurally weak regions of the earth to enjoy our common wealth ;
- Direct aid to the populations of developing countries by non-governmental organisations rather than states. In the meantime, the Greens hold that the European Development Fund should give priority to funding projects of non-governmental organisations ;
- An increase of the European Development Fund to at least 1 % of the G.N.P. of the E.E.C. within three years. Aid from the European Development Fund shall primarily be directed towards food production, irrigation, intensive re-afforestation, and appropriate infra-structures for health care and education ;
- Progressive release by the industrialised countries of the Third World from its debts.

We are convinced that solidarity between peoples and regions should not come to a halt at the borders of Europe.



## 6. TOMORROW'S EUROPE - TOWARDS A DEMOCRATIC EUROPE OF SELF DETERMINED REGIONS

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Regional awareness becomes more and more a fact of life throughout our continent ; the European Community, however, recognises only states. This runs counter to the concept of "integral federalism" which, starting from neighbourhoods and villages, builds on the willing consent of the different regions to arrive at the Europe of Regions. This is why the European Greens want a Europe which is close to its citizens and whose institutions are subject to the effective control of the regions and their representatives.

We would adopt a European treaty, the terms of which would be specified by a conference of the Regions of Europe, and the setting-up of a Parliamentary Assembly of the Regions of Europe, directly elected by proportional representation and having clearly determined powers and areas of responsibility.

One of the ways of moving towards such a Europe of Regions is to seek to change and influence existing European institutions such as the E.E.C.

Thus we call for :

- Immediate and radical democratisation of the present European Parliament so that any decision that came into force at community level required an endorsement by the majority of the elected members ;
- The opening of ways for regular participation of all citizens in the political life of Europe, e.g. referendum by public initiative.

Furthermore the European Greens believe that this new Europe of the Regions should be open to all European peoples.

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THE EUROPEAN GREENS

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