

PL Political Platform

Organization: CDN

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Agenda item: 3. Organisational and Governance Documents

Motion text

1 Introduction

We, the Cooperation and Development Network Eastern Europe (CDN), are committed to upholding and advancing the values of the Green movement. We believe that the well-being of people and the flourishing of the environment are closely linked and that one cannot defend the interests of one while forgetting the other.

We are convinced that a radical change of our current social, political, and economic institutions is necessary. Eastern Europe – where issues such as corruption, armed conflicts, pollution and discrimination loom large – can only profit from a Green vision. We strive for a world in which human rights are upheld, the genders are truly equal, people actively participate in democracy, minorities are included, and the environment is protected. We believe that human and social rights are fundamental everywhere and that global affairs must be conducted in a spirit of peace, solidarity and fairness.

As Greens, we know that our values are interrelated and that solutions are sustainable only when these values mutually support each other.

This document lays out the values that inform and motivate our actions.

1. Democracy

We believe in democracy as one of the cornerstones of a free and just society. Democracy includes more than just elections – a strong and fair institutional framework, free and diverse media, human rights, and economic and social equality are all crucial. It is especially important that our political structures are inclusive and give a voice to minorities and the disenfranchised.

We strive for a democracy that enables and encourages active participation in the shaping of our common future.

Democracy

We believe in democracy as the fairest way of governance. But for democracy to fulfil this promise all citizens must have equal rights and the capacity to be involved in decision-making processes. Election systems must be representative and inclusive in order to give a voice to the disenfranchised and to avoid the unjust accumulation of power. We support self-governance at the grass-root level as the most non-discriminatory and just manifestation of democratic governance. We believe in self-determination as all people's right to pursue their

33 independent political status or cultural development without external
34 interference.

35 We stand for actively engaged civil society as an integral part of democracy. An
36 appropriate environment for a sustainable and well-functioning civil society is
37 of utmost importance for the development and stability of democratic practices.
38 Voluntary action and active citizenship is important tool to strengthen
39 democracy.

40 We demand:

- 41 • democratic governance in all social and political institutions;
- 42 • the implementation of grass-root methods on all levels of governance;
- 43 • the support decentralisation policies;
- 44 • that community activism and human solidarity be encouraged by the
45 legislative framework;
- 46 • the recognition and validation of voluntary work by employers and
47 educational institutions;
- 48 • the guarantee of youth participation in institutional politics;
- 49 • that the voting age is lowered to at least 16.

50 Human rights and the rule of law

51 We believe that human rights are universal. A democratic society must ensure the
52 protection of individual liberties, human rights and the rights of minorities.
53 Freedom of expression and speech must always be respected. We acknowledge that
54 respect for human rights cannot be guaranteed without recognizing and combating
55 hate speech, which affects the most vulnerable groups in society.

56 The protection of human rights depends on the rule of law. Equality, before the
57 law is imperative for all societies for it, ensures that all people, regardless
58 of their status, get equal access to the rights they are entitled to. It
59 furthermore allows governmental decisions to be challenged on an equal footing.

60 The rule of law both depends on and enables transparency, which is a crucial
61 element and backbone of democratic societies. Transparency provides powerful
62 tools that enable people to hold their governments to account and help prevent
63 abuse of power and corruption. We believe that transparency and rule of law are
64 not only a matter of justice, but it further enables people to empower
65 themselves.

66 We demand:

- 67 • open and accessible government documents and data;
- 68 • fair and accessible legislative processes;
- 69 • that states recognize and fight hate speech;
- 70 • that laws are designed in accordance with people's rights;
- 71 • the active participation of civil society in the design and management of
- 72 public institutions;
- 73 • that governments ensure full and equal access to justice for all citizens.

74 Media and digital rights

75 A free, diverse and critical media landscape is crucial to a well-functioning
76 democracy, allowing citizens to express their views, gain information, and
77 engage in political deliberation. We believe that only a media that is not
78 controlled by a few big enterprises and political actors can fulfil its role in
79 holding governments accountable.

80 Media must be supported in this task by adequate transparency laws and the
81 protection from government interference and arrest.

82 The internet has quickly become one of the main public spaces where people gain
83 and exchange information, both among themselves as well as with those who are in
84 positions of government. For the internet to remain a space where society can
85 meet and deliberate, we must ensure that the internet is free from mass
86 surveillance both by government and commercial entities. New online forms of
87 participatory democracy and culture must be explored. We must encourage the
88 formation of free and open online social spaces that are self-governed and
89 inclusive.

90 We demand:

- 91 • an end to censorship and threats to free media - both online and offline;
- 92 • a media law that ensures that media is not controlled by the economic
93 elite advancing their own interests;
- 94 • an end to the detention and imprisonment of journalists;
- 95 • the protection of journalists' sources and whistle-blowers;
- 96 • an end to invasions of privacy online both by governments and by
97 companies;
- 98 • establishment and sufficient support of an independent public
99 broadcasting;
- 100 • support for alternative online communities that function according to
101 principles of self-governance and inclusion;
- 102 • net neutrality, which implies treating all Internet communications
103 equally;
- 104 • affirmative action programs that foster the active participation of women
105 and other disadvantaged genders in the digital sphere;
- 106 • ensuring equal access for everyone regardless of geographical disbalances.

107 Solidarity against nationalism

108 An inclusive society and long term sustainable prosperity can only be achieved
109 with a defeat of exclusionary ideologies such as right-wing nationalism and
110 populism. Applying the populist narrative to politics, social and economic
111 policy leads to insecurity, divisions and exclusion of the most threatened
112 groups. This can, in the future open space for conflicts between these groups.
113 Nationalist and xenophobic political agendas further weaken the disenfranchised
114 and strengthen the powerful. Nationalism is often bound up in racism and
115 bigotry, organising against which is a key part of Green politics.

116 We believe solidarity to be a foundation on which all progress is built. We
117 stand for cooperation and mutual collaboration as solutions to the split
118 societies that exclusionary ideologies create.

119 We demand:

- 120 • the rejection of politics of division and politics that seek to use
121 nationalistic or any other kind of exclusionary rhetoric at the expense of
122 minorities and vulnerable groups;
- 123 • not to provide a public arena for rhetoric and policies that aim at
124 inciting hatred;
- 125 • an end to the discrimination of groups that do not conform to national
126 customs shared by the majority.

127 2. Social rights

128 We believe that social rights are essential for all people to be autonomous
129 members of their societies. Social rights should be considered fundamental and
130 be provided by all governments. Social rights include equal access to quality
131 education and healthcare, right to housing and employment. It is crucial to have
132 a strong implementation of social rights to have an inclusive, equal and just
133 society in peace.

134 Gender

135 Gender equality is fundamental to a just society.

136 The capitalistic economic system and mode of production, alongside long-
137 standing patriarchal traditions, have resulted in the oppressive, exploitative
138 and discriminatory treatment of non-males, effectively relegating them to
139 second- class status. Sustained action, guided by a strong feminist perspective,
140 is needed to overcome this problem. Gender equality is the necessary foundation
141 for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world. The first step in achieving
142 these rights is the proportional representation of people of various gender
143 identities in representative bodies.

144 We demand:

- 145 • equal access to the labour market, opportunities and fair pay for people
146 of all genders; the gender pay gap must be eliminated;
- 147 • better policies against gender-based violence with determined combating
148 of discrimination and hate crime against LGBTI+ people and legal

- 149 recognition of all sexual orientation, gender identities, and gender
150 expression and sex characteristics;
- 151 • that governments ensure equal access to social rights for people of all
152 genders;
 - 153 • LGBTI+ people should have equal rights with regard to marriage, adoption
154 and parenting, work-related benefits, pension rights and immigration and
155 asylum;
 - 156 • that sex work is regulated -- or at the minimum decriminalised -- to
157 protect the human, health and labour rights of sex workers;
 - 158 • proportional representation of all gender identities in assemblies on all
159 levels of government.

160 Social security

161 We believe that one of the strongest cohesive forces in any society is social
162 solidarity expressed in practice through state-guaranteed social security.
163 Social security is an important means for achieving prosperity for all, equality
164 and meaningful lives. A welfare state should enable all inhabitants to lead
165 dignified lives. In order to achieve this social security should not only ensure
166 survival but enable people to actively participate in the cultural and social
167 life of their communities.

168 We demand:

- 169 • free, accessible and adequate healthcare guaranteed by the state;
- 170 • affordable, accessible, adequate housing as well as free public housing
171 guaranteed by the state with a special emphasis on the housing needs of
172 young people;
- 173 • the right to an income that covers physical and social needs and which
174 does not depend on employment;
- 175 • that all citizens have full and equal opportunities for personal and
176 social development.
- 177 • that the housing market/rental market is regulated on the local level,
178 through decisions made by the local government civil society and local
179 communities as equal partners;
- 180 • that state bans (either by expropriating or purchasing property) large
181 landlords in the city and turns the property into free or affordable
182 social housing.

183 Youth

184 As an organisation of young people, we recognise the key role of youth in
185 society. Youth is not only the future of society but its present too. Often,
186 they are not seen as an active and equal actor in the political, social,

187 cultural, and economic spheres and are excluded from decision-making processes
188 or treated as mere tokens. We support youth rights in every aspect of social and
189 political life and strive for making youth's voices heard. We believe that
190 active citizenship should be encouraged among youth and, as a minimum, youth
191 rights should be proactively defended in order to strengthen their position in
192 society. Education is one of the most important means enabling youth to stand up
193 for their rights and fully contribute to democracy. We believe the current
194 educational system must be fundamentally reformed enabling the direct and equal
195 participation of students in the learning process. Education is for progress,
196 sustainability, diversity, and prosperity. We highlight the value and importance
197 of non-formal education as an inclusive alternative to current institutional
198 forms of education and as a major provider of skills to foster participation in
199 democracy.

200 We demand:

- 201 • free, accessible, and adequate education for all;
- 202 • ensuring youth political representation on national and local levels;
- 203 • accessible legal means for youth to insist on their rights;
- 204 • youth centres in every community;
- 205 • independent funds for youth projects by youth;
- 206 • learning processes that are adjusted to individual learners' needs,
207 competencies and interests;
- 208 • support for and recognition of non-institutional and alternative forms of
209 education.

210 Inclusion

211 As a Green organisation encompassing a geographically and ethnically diverse
212 region, cultural rights and non-discrimination is a vital part of our world-
213 view.

214 Cultural diversity is of fundamental value to us. Protection of diversity
215 fosters inclusion and equal participation of every person in state affairs,
216 public and everyday life, and guarantees that each individual has equal
217 opportunities for personal and social fulfilment. Inclusion and openness help
218 create a more welcoming society, where a variety of ideas, efforts and
219 perspectives may thrive.

220 We believe that every community has the right to use their own language and to
221 preserve their traditions as long as they do not violate the rights of others.

222 Therefore we stand for social sensitivity, peaceful co-existence, preservation
223 of local languages and cultural heritage and traditions where their compatible
224 with non-violence and inclusion of vulnerable groups. We condemn any
225 discrimination based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, belief,
226 self identity et cetera.

227 We demand:

- 228 • that state guarantees for the protection of cultural heritage for all
229 ethnic and cultural groups in accordance with values of non-violence and
230 non-exclusion;
- 231 • that discrimination based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation,
232 belief, self-identity etc. is made illegal;
- 233 • that state guarantees for the usage of minority languages in areas where
234 accepting them as official languages is reasonable;
- 235 • that states do not impose any defining characteristics, such as
236 exclusionary cultural norms, as the ones to be followed by citizens.

237 3. Environmental justice

238 We as Young Greens take ecology and environmental justice as guiding principles
239 in our world view and political ideology. Out of all species on Earth, human
240 beings are the only ones drastically using and subduing nature to suit their own
241 needs. Pollution, the altering of habitats, extinction of species, climate
242 change, active hostilities, et cetera affect all living organisms. A healthy
243 environment and stable ecosystems are a prerequisite for a healthy society. At
244 this moment many are living beyond the capacities of this planet and have little
245 awareness of the repercussions thereof. We need to start acting responsibly and
246 humbly, building a society on the principles of sustainability and respect of
247 nature's capacities, limiting our own harmful impact.

248 Climate change

249 Decisive action to counteract climate change should be taken immediately. The
250 global scientific consensus has laid out very clear warnings that this is non-
251 negotiable. As an issue that will have irreversible and tragic effects on all of
252 humankind, this is something we understand as urgent and a priority. To properly
253 fight the acceleration of climate change, climate action should be taken at all
254 levels, from the personal to the global.

255 We condemn the discourses in mainstream politics relying on future solutions to
256 mitigate the effects of the climate crisis, such as carbon (re)capture, nuclear
257 fusion and heavily electrified machinery. These instruments promote growth based
258 economies which are exploitative of our natural resources and most of
259 individuals in the society. Furthermore, all these solutions shift the
260 responsibility to future generations, while it's in fact, up to us to act today
261 to prevent the worst effects of climate change.

262 We demand:

- 263 • the ownership of responsibility to mitigate the effects of climate crisis
264 by the political and business elites;
- 265 • that the biggest polluters – both companies and countries – are held
266 accountable for their contribution to climate change and care for its
267 victims;
- 268 • that all states create comprehensive plans to transition to 100% renewable
269 energy that is produced and controlled locally and affordable to everyone;
- 270 • that no plans for new fossil fuel extraction or burning are made or
271 approved and divestment from fossil fuel is encouraged;
- 272 • that global climate policy (i.e. UNFCCC) is not a vehicle for corporate
273 interest and instead puts the needs of all citizens first.
- 274 • the application of present solutions to mitigate climate change instead of
275 potential future instruments;
- 276 • the dismissal of exploitative growth based economy in favour of a just
277 degrowth based economy.

278 Environmental preservation and biodiversity

279 We recognize that the planet does not serve just humankind but all living
280 beings. We believe that the protection of natural resources and the Earth itself
281 is crucial. Other living beings and their preservation should be considered an
282 important part of all decision making. Energy should be produced sustainably and
283 not do irreversible damage to the planet.

284 We demand:

- 285 • that all policies' effects on the planet are considered and that harmful
286 extraction techniques (e.g. fracking) are banned;
- 287 • that authorities stop deforestation and support the growth of new forests
288 and trees;
- 289 • that animals be given legal rights that go beyond their utility for
290 humankind;
- 291 • more education on endangered plants and animals and the crucial role
292 plants and animals play in our ecosystem;
- 293 • that the use of agricultural land for fuel is forbidden and that research
294 into recovering fuels from waste is promoted.

295 Water and food

296 Water and food security have to be one of the primary concerns and aims of
297 society. They are basic for the survival of every human being. Access to clean

298 water resources and quality food should be unconditionally guaranteed as an
299 intrinsic right for all living beings. Consumers should be incentivised to
300 change their habits, prioritising a low carbon diet by consuming local and
301 organic food. We oppose any monopolisation in food production and seed. Food
302 production should be done with great care for their impact on human health, the
303 environment and other living beings and based on principles of sustainability.

304 We demand:

- 305 • clean and potable water for every household; the privatisation of water
306 sources should be forbidden;
- 307 • that water and food are secure and sustainable based on the latest
308 scientific knowledge and social values;
- 309 • access to true adequate, easy to understand information about the
310 production, origin, content and health effects of the food products we
311 consume;
- 312 • a ban on the use of additives and other substances that harm living
313 organisms, soil and water;
- 314 • regulation of the monopolies in food production and water provision.

315 Urban ecosystems

316 Urban areas are the most quickly developing human settlements in the world. A
317 majority of the population now lives there, making cities a crucial part of our
318 societies. Cities have high demands for goods (e.g. food, water and energy)
319 which they are not fully able to satisfy themselves, and which are imported from
320 other areas. As big concentrations of people and human activity, cities produce
321 and are subject to high pollution and lower standards of living than in rural
322 areas. Cities should not continue to function in a way that is harmful to their
323 inhabitants and the rest of the planet and its people.

324 We demand:

- 325 • that measures of precaution are taken to ensure that the Air Quality Index
326 (AQI) in inhabited areas stays below 100;
- 327 • that public transportation is a reliable, accessible, fast and cheap or
328 free option of transport for all citizens;
- 329 • that urban areas are transformed to encompass green zones and prioritise
330 cycling and walking to other means of transport;
- 331 • an uncompromising zero-waste policy for all national and local waste
332 management systems, with strong incentives (e.g. high fees for unsorted
333 waste);
- 334 • the promotion of waste prevention and re-usage of materials from an early
335 age and to all generations of society, and simple and accessible recycling
336 for everyone.

337 4. Economy

338 We believe that we urgently need a new form of organising our economy. Our
339 societies should orient themselves away from consumerism and the accumulation of
340 wealth and instead provide everyone with the opportunities needed to live a
341 fulfilled life. The current economic model has had serious negative consequences
342 for people and the environment. Firstly, the unequal distribution of wealth
343 directly affects countless lives and entrenches power imbalances. Secondly, the
344 use of natural resources to produce more and more material goods endangers the
345 environment and affects especially the lives of the marginalised and future
346 generations.

347 We believe that the answer can only be a community-based approach based on
348 cooperation and sustainability where meeting everyone's fundamental needs –
349 including our desires for sociality and creativity – take centre stage.

350 Labour

351 Work constitutes a large part of most people's lives and livelihoods are often
352 directly linked to income generated by labour. Therefore, fair and just labour
353 rights are crucial aspects of personal well-being and functioning democracies.
354 The right not to be exploited in the workplace is fundamental for a healthy
355 society. Women, youth and minorities are still the most vulnerable to
356 exploitation in their work- there should be stronger protections for these
357 groups. Today's economic model has seen a rise in jobs that offer unsatisfactory
358 working conditions such as low wages, unstable hours, tasks that are not
359 mentally stimulating, and precarious contracts. These developments are
360 detrimental to society as a whole. Our economy and concept of work should focus
361 on providing jobs that give enable material and mental well-being.

362 We demand:

- 363 • equal labour rights for all people, regardless of their gender, race,
364 sexual orientation, disability, or nationality;
- 365 • abolishment of unpaid internships;
- 366 • a living wage, or income that is enough to sustain your basic needs;
- 367 • abolishment of contracts that do not guarantee a set number of hours;
- 368 • protection of labour unions and collective bargaining;
- 369 • that the highest salary in a company is no more than 6 times the lowest
370 salary.

371 Trade

372 As one of the key drivers of globalisation, trade is a crucial aspect of our
373 societies and current economic model. This has resulted in the proliferation of
374 economic inequality and instability, rather than creating an economy that
375 benefits everyone. This has been driven by reckless self-interested behaviour by
376 multinationals and the financial sector and aggressive trade policies that are
377 created in the interest of corporations, not the wider society. This gives
378 unequal power to business interests, leading countries to a democratic deficit.
379 Trade is important and can benefit humanity greatly, but it must be undertaken
380 in the spirit of fair cooperation and respect for the environment.

381 We demand:

- 382 • trade with aggressor countries and authoritarian regimes should be
383 limited;
- 384 • that undemocratic trade deals that favour corporate over citizens'
385 interests are replaced with fair trade deals where partners benefit
386 equally;
- 387 • that all trade agreements are put under serious scrutiny: negotiations
388 must be transparent and review from citizens groups and civil society
389 should play a crucial role;
- 390 • that trade relationships between Eastern Europe and the EU and other major
391 partners are truly beneficial to all parties;
- 392 • that all trade agreements have a sincere environmental evaluation chapter
393 taking the centre stage of the contract.

394 Alternative economic organisation

395 We envision a system of economic organisation that is based on collective
396 stewardship of our natural resources and collective control of the means of
397 production. Communities need to be in control of the production facilities and
398 decide themselves what their needs are and how they can be best fulfilled. We

399 need to put an end to the privatisation and commodification of our common goods:
400 our environment, our cultural heritage and the knowledge produced by the
401 sciences.

402 Work must allow people to contribute to our common good and realise their
403 capacities. Less stress should be put on the production of material goods and
404 more on collaboration, the provision of social goods, and the development of the
405 arts and sciences. This new economy needs to be sustainable in all aspects and
406 always include the needs of future generations and of our environment in its
407 thinking.

408 We demand:

- 409 • reform of intellectual property rights law;
- 410 • progressive taxation and prosecution of tax avoidance;
- 411 • transparent and participatory budgets controlled by citizens;
- 412 • a stop to the privatisation of common goods;
- 413 • a re-democratisation of privatised public and common goods;
- 414 • support for the establishment of cooperatives.

415 5. Global Affairs

416 We strongly believe that the social change we envision can only be achieved
417 through cooperation at the global level aimed at reaching sustainable solutions.
418 We support international organisations, unions and agreements that work towards
419 peaceful solutions to armed conflict and foster cooperation on climate issues,
420 fair international trade and humanitarian support. We call for the countries
421 that have the most access to the wealth to assume responsibility for their
422 historical behaviour and act to lower the difference with the majority of
423 countries, which have suffered and still suffer from exploitation. All
424 international relations should be based on non-violence and conflicts should be
425 solved in negotiations based on mutual respect and multilateral communication. A
426 fairer and more equal world, with a more balanced distribution of goods and
427 resources, is better for everyone.

428 Peace

429 We as Young Greens strongly stand for peaceful means as a core principle and
430 strive to create a world with a culture of non-violence. War is both the cause
431 and consequence of great human suffering and as such must be overcome if people
432 are to live fulfilling lives. International cooperation and peaceful
433 facilitation of negotiations should be the primary way of addressing conflict.

434 We condemn all behaviour by public and private stakeholders that aims at
435 profiting from armed conflict and see it as complicit in the perpetuation of the
436 destruction of societies and the earth. We want to build a strong and
437 sustainable peace by strengthening tolerance, economic equality, environmental

438 protection, respect of human rights and social security in all parts of the
439 world.

440 We demand:

- 441 • the abolishment of organisations that propagate military actions, except
442 when acting in self-defence against armed oppressive regimes;
- 443 • the pursuit of general and complete disarmament and a stop to arms trade;
- 444 • an international agreement to ensure a complete and definitive ban on
445 nuclear, biological and chemical arms, anti-personnel mines and depleted
446 uranium weapons;
- 447 • respect for everyone's right to self-determination, specifically the
448 peaceful separation of countries who desire independence;
- 449 • that the international treaties on armed conflicts, such as the Geneva
450 Convention, are respected in all armed conflicts and that breaches of
451 these treaties are severely punished.

452 European Union

453 We understand Europe as being more than just an accumulation of individual
454 countries. Cultural, economic, historical and political reasons make Europe an
455 interdependent and transnational community.

456 The European Union should be a mutual and crucial project to enhance the
457 cooperation among the countries of the continent. The European Union must be a
458 community based on mutual respect, transparency, and prosperity. We see the
459 future of Eastern European countries as being part of this community, however,
460 not at the expense of becoming a source of underpaid labour or a market for
461 otherwise unwanted products.

462 We demand:

- 463 • that the EU guarantees equal treatment and rights of Eastern European
464 citizens coming to work within the EU in law as well as in practice;
- 465 • that Eastern European countries are treated as equal partners within and
466 outside of the EU;
- 467 • the democratisation of the EU's institutions – direct elections for the
468 Commission, real decision making power for the Parliament;
- 469 • that accession negotiations are transparent and in the best interest of
470 all people and that information regarding accession criteria and progress
471 are publicly available;

472 Migration

473 Both voluntary and involuntary migration has increased in recent years due to
474 various factors – it is one of the most pressing matters of our age. Economic
475 uncertainty, armed conflicts and climate change are all driving people away from

476 their homelands in search of a safer existence. We understand that we all bear
477 the responsibility of providing a safe environment and a fair asylum system for
478 the people fleeing conflict, hunger and oppression. We condemn any form of human
479 trafficking, human rights violation and abuse of power by authorities regarding
480 refugees.

481 We believe that freedom of movement is the right of every human being. We strive
482 to create a world in which no person is considered illegal, where people are not
483 forced to leave their homes, and where societies show solidarity with all people
484 seeking refuge. Not only does diversity boost the economy and innovation, but a
485 diverse and culturally rich society is a strong one.

486 We demand:

- 487 • a right to asylum in all countries and the abolishment of the concept of
488 illegal persons;
- 489 • easing naturalisation procedures;
- 490 • the right to reunite with one's family;
- 491 • the availability and accessibility of institutions that facilitate
492 integration;
- 493 • that the international agreements guaranteeing the basic human rights of
494 refugees and asylum seekers (regardless of their official legal status) be
495 respected;
- 496 • that all refugees and asylum seekers have the same social rights as
497 citizens and be allowed to settle in the country of their choosing;
- 498 • the abolishment of visa regimes that obstruct the free movement of people,
499 especially between Eastern European countries and the EU.