GLOBAL GREENS NEWSLETTER - JULY 2014

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WORLD NEWS

G 20: Civil society calls for climate change to be a stand-alone issue on the agenda

If the Australian government gets its way climate change won’t be on the agenda when the country hosts the G20 Leaders Summit in Brisbane in November 2014 at probably the most powerful international gathering ever held here. But international pressure is mounting to force a reversal of the decision.

Meeting in late June the C20, the civil society platform for dialogue with the G20, sent a strong message that climate change must be discussed:

Photo Credits: The Verb // Laura Owsianka/FLICKR

We expect G20 leaders to provide momentum to delivering an ambitious global climate agreement at the 2015 UNFCCC Climate Summit in Paris, by including a climate finance roadmap by April 2015 to help developing countries reduce emissions and manage the unavoidable impacts of climate change, and to implement mitigation strategies which will ensure that sustainable economic growth is not affected by rapid changes in the world’s climate. Said a C20 communiqué.

Other issues discussed at the C20 Summit included tax transparency, anti-corruption, climate change and renewable energy investment, youth employment, food and resource security and infrastructure. Read the full communiqué here.

Australia’s conservative Abbott government is trying to protect the coal industry and dismantle world-leading climate legislation introduced by the previous government with the help of the Greens. While momentum builds for climate action around the world, Australia has teamed up with Canada to sabotage the process. The next big event is the UN Climate Summit in New York in September. Prime Minister Abbott won’t go – but will he be forced to have climate change on the G20 agenda?

OTHER CLIMATE NEWS

• In the frame of the UN Climate Summit in September, US Greens are working together with other groups for a NY Climate Convergence: “For people, planet and peace over profit”: ConvergeForClimate.org

• In the lead-up to their September election, the New Zealand Greens have launched a Climate Protection Plan, a win-win plan to protect climate, achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 and leave New Zealand families better off.

Global Greens shocked by Egyptian court decision on Al Jazeera English journalists and the assault on press freedom

The Global Greens have joined global condemnation of the conviction of the three Al Jazeera journalists accused by Egyptian authorities of ‘falsifying news’ and call on the Egyptian authorities to secure their release urgently.

This decision follows a succession of court rulings denying defendants the right to a fair trial and violating the basic tenets of criminal law, most recently the mass sentencing of Muslim Brotherhood supporters to death which the Global Greens have previously condemned. [link]

The three Al Jazeera journalists, Egyptian Baher Mohamed, Australian Peter Grese and Canadian-Egyptian Mohamed Fahmy have already been imprisoned for six months and face sentences of seven to ten years. Their trial was widely regarded as a sham, including by Amnesty International.

Their fate is a devastating outcome for the prisoners and their families and colleagues, and an assault on media freedom and free speech in Egypt.

The Global Greens, through our Charter, uphold the right of citizens everywhere to have access to free and independent media.

Egypt’s new government faces a critical test to restore the country’s credibility as a member of the international community that respects freedom of expression, a free media and the application of a fair and just rule of law.

WORLD ELECTIONS: take a look at upcoming elections world-wide:
http://www.electionguide.org/

EUROPE

European Elections: Green result is a mandate for change in Europe

Commenting the results of the European Parliament elections, Reinhard Bütikofer, Co-Chair of the European Green Party, says:
“Greens have won seats in more countries than ever. In 2014 Hungary and Croatia, for the first time, will send Green MEPs to the European Parliament. Our message that Europe can and must change has resonated loudly. Our Green goals and achievements, from environmental protection and the promotion of renewables, to a more humane migration policy, our fight against lobbies and for better control of the financial industry are shared by a consolidated group of Green voices from across Europe. We are proud to welcome our new Green MEPs.”

Monica Frassoni, Co-Chair of the European Green Party, underlines that

"While it is positive that the turnout in these elections has not fallen below the level of 2009 (and is now even a little bit higher), it is obviously worrisome that a number of political actors will enter this new parliament with an anti-European, anti-democratic agenda. We Greens call on this Parliament to start a new process of democratic reform of the EU, in order to make it more democratic and effective. Also, we warn against the Council’s temptation not to consider the results of the elections in the nomination process for the European Commission President. We should keep in mind that all leading candidates pledged in their campaigns that backdoor deals in the European Council on this position are not acceptable."

For more on European Elections see also

- The Green European Journal
- Official European Election Results
- Latest News: Ulrike Lunacek elected Vice President of the European Parliament on July 2nd

**AMERICAS**

**US Green Party National Convention 2014 and 30th Years anniversary**

From July 24th to July 27th, the Green Party of United States will hold its National Convention in Saint Paul, MN under the slogan “Back to Our Roots: People, Planet, Principles.”

2014 will be the 30th anniversary of the first national get-together of US Greens which was held in the same venue, the Macalester College in St Paul, Minnesota. The first national Green organization was founded at that meeting, where the key values of the party were put forth and the decentralized Green Committees of Correspondence were established with the goal of organizing local groups and working towards a Green political organization.

In 1984, the spirit of the American Greens movement was very much grounded in grassroots democracy. Today, in Minnesota the grassroots spirit is still very strong and could be a major force at the meeting.

US Greens are excited about planning special workshops and events around the anniversary; coalitions between different movement-based organizations are also getting more prominent.

Additional information can be found at [http://2014greenpartyconvention.org](http://2014greenpartyconvention.org)
Green Party of Canada Convention

July 18 to 20, 2014 - University of New Brunswick - Fredericton, NB

The 2014 Green Party of Canada is holding its Convention in Fredericton. See the agenda and other information here.

From the party’s website:

The 2014 Green Party Convention in Fredericton has a lot to offer:

- Engaging speeches from a variety of speakers:
  - Governance, Policy & Training workshops and plenary sessions;
  - A whole lot of fun!

Elizabeth will deliver her keynote address at the Gala on Saturday night. This evening will include: local food & drink, speeches, and live music from local bands.

AFRICA

Main Outcomes from the Third African Greens Congress in Madagascar

The African Greens Federation is pleased to inform its members and friends that it successfully held its third congress in Antananarivo-Madagascar and consolidated its gains for the continent’s green politics. The congress took place from 20th -21st June 2014 and it brought together 17 political parties from across Africa. After approving the federation’s reports and future program, the congress elected different officials for the next period (2014-2018), including Dr Frank Habineza from Rwanda as President, Regional Chairpersons and the African representatives of the Global Greens Coordination: Dr Habineza, Mr Adamou Garba from Niger (also elected Communication Secretary for the Federation) and Ms Fatima Alaoui from Morocco, and alternates. The Full list of elected representatives of the African Green Federation is available here, and the full list of Global Greens Coordination Members is available here. A big thank you to the former African Representatives of the GGC, who ended their mandate: Mrs Nma Emeruwa from Nigeria, Mr Pembe Didace from Congo.

The third African Greens Congress in Madagascar was indeed a great success, it achieved all its objectives and reconfirmed to support Greens in the Indian Ocean states to create six region of AGF. It also reconfirmed to stand with the Mauritius Greens in their second phase of their hunger strike demanding the implementation of the agreed reforms in the Nelson Mandela Trust Fund.

The next AGF Congress will be hosted by the Parti Ecologique
Congolais in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

ASIA-PACIFIC

Indian elections and the new Narendra Modi government. Concerns about Hindutva agenda and fast modernisation

By Marko Ulvila, Finnish Green Party activist and international secretary of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam Network

The results of the month-long Indian parliamentary elections were announced on May 16, 2014. The Hindu-nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) increased its vote share to 31 percent and got a simple majority in the Lower House (Lok Sabha) with 282 seats out of 543. Other partners in the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) secured 54 seats, taking the NDA tally to 336 seats. The gain of 166 seats is the biggest victory since the 1984 election when Rajiv Gandhi of the Congress won with 414 seats. It is also the first time ever in the history of independent India that a non-Congress party has won a simple majority on its own.

The Ruling Congress Party was devastated and left only with 44 seats, though attaining 19 percent of the votes. Regional parties in Tamil Nadu, Orissa and West Bengal did well but the ones in the Hindi heartland lost badly. Also, the Communist parties fared poorly. The electorate had become frustrated with the Congress rule and only the BJP, with Narendra Modi as the prime ministerial candidate, was able to mobilise support in significant parts of the sub-continent.

The new Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) that rose from the anti-corruption movement did well for a first timer but fell short of the unrealistic expectations. It got four MPs from Punjab, 33 percent of votes in Delhi, second place in Varanasi and became number four or five in several places. However, the miracle performance in Delhi Assembly elections in December 2013 (28 seats out of 70) was repeated only in Punjab; the national vote share was two percent. See more: here.

GLOBAL GREENS NEWS

Become a Friend of the Global Greens – the campaign is starting

As environmental and social problems cross borders, Green politics needs to become global too. At the Global Greens Congress in Dakar, we set ambitious goals. We want to enhance Green cooperation and create global partnerships, offer capacity building, support global networks and campaigns and communicate effectively with all our supporters.

You can help the Global Greens grow into a movement with real clout! Become a “Friend of the Global
Greens” by making a regular monthly donation of whatever amount you choose. We will acknowledge Friends of the Global Greens on this website and send you regular updates of the Global Greens progress. In the next Congress, which we will have in Europe in 2016 or 2017, we’ll organise a special thank you event for the Friends of the Global Greens.

We already have Friends from every continent. Take up the challenge today and become our newest Global Greens Friend.

- Join here by making a regular donation in euros, SUS or $Australian, and send your picture and quote to Eva Goes, Global Greens Foundraiser: eva.goes@mp.se
- See more about the campaign here (http://www.globalgreens.org/friends-global-greens)
- And check Global Greens Facebook – we will launch the social media campaign soon!

Global Greens is now a non-profit organisation

On May 28th 2014, the Global Greens was legally recognised as an International Non-Profit Organization in Belgium. We are proud of this achievement and a big thank you to all the people who contributed and supported the registration process.

Contributed to the Global Greens Newsletter July 2014: Marko Ulvila, Margaret Blakers, Barry Lowe, Adamou Garba, Green Party of United States, Alice Rosmi (Global Greens Secretary)

Federations and Parties

- African Green Federation
- Asia Pacific Greens Network
- Federation of Green Parties of the Americas
- European Green Party
- Global Greens Network

Resources

- Global Greens Charter
- Elected Greens
- Party Platforms
- Past Congresses
- Video and Audio

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