



GLOBAL GREENS NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2014

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EUROPEAN GREENS CAMPAIGN HAS STARTED

Electoral Convention and European Common Manifesto



European elections will be held on 22nd – 25th May, 2014 and the [election campaign has started](#). Greens across Europe have united behind a common election manifesto that will lead Europe in to a modern and sustainable future. The manifesto was presented during the [European Green Party Eclectoral Convention](#) last weekend and contains eight main political areas: Climate and Energy, Food and Environment, Social Justice, Freedom, Global Solidarity, Democracy and Economy and Europe. The EGP presented their campaign material, which includes a series of posters with the tagline “Change Europe, vote Green”. The posters can be customised online by national parties or Green party supporters.

The European Greens state that they are serious about tackling [climate change](#) through a complete transformation of our energy production and consumption. Europe needs to be energy self-sufficient with an energy supply based on renewable resources. Europe also has to have high energy efficiency and ambitious reduction of CO2 emissions. The European greens have set the target to be 100 % renewable energy by 2050.

The European Greens are working for all people across Europe to have the right to enjoy [healthy food](#), sustainable for both environment and for producers. Because ecological farming and production protects both biodiversity and soil fertility, the European Greens seek to stimulate local production chains, organic farming and fair trade.

The European Greens believe in a Europe with equal rights, where everyone has the freedom and opportunity to participate in a society offering citizens equal opportunities regardless of gender, nationality, social background, age, sexual or gender identity, religion or disabilities. The European Greens envision a Europe providing its population with good education, and long-term job opportunities. We have a special focus on young Europeans and we want to highlight the importance of intergenerational [solidarity and equal rights](#) independent of age.

“Join the Greens for a future Europe with quality jobs that fights global warming and social inequalities” – [José Bové](#) one of the leading candidates for elections in 2014.

PROTESTS IN UKRAINE AND VENEZUELA

The European Greens on the situation in Ukraine



The situation is still evolving and there are inherent risks of further instability and violence. The European Green Party has underlined that the [territorial integrity of Ukraine is crucial](#) to secure a peaceful future and that any activity aimed at breaching this is unacceptable.

Greens have called upon the EU's foreign ministers and diplomats to do their utmost to create a sustainable, peaceful solution and expect the Russian authorities to play a constructive role also.

The EU must help to stabilise the social, financial and economic situation in Ukraine with joint efforts and develop a specific support plan with all its international partners and institutions, and help Ukraine to lessen their energy dependence on Russia.

Crucially, the Ukrainian people should decide for themselves what sort of country they want to live in, and if they want to move towards the European Union.

Movimiento Ecologico de Venezuela on the students protests



Venezuela has one of the highest murder rates in the world, is deeply politically polarized and its yearly inflation in December 2013 stood at 56.2%. Fueled by such issues, student protests against president Maduro were ignited in Caracas on February 12, 2014 and quickly turned deadly after three people were shot by gunmen during a largely peaceful march that day. Since then, there have been [daily demonstrations](#).

[Movimiento Econogico de Venezuela](#), Member of the Global Greens, expresses concerns about the escalation of violence, invites all parties to consent to a peaceful dialogue to find sustainable solutions to their differences, and calls the government to address the economic, social, and security crisis.

“We stand in solidarity with the people and the families of the victims. We urge the Venezuelan government to ensure the right of assembly and personal integrity, security and political rights. We seek collective leadership and promote conflict resolutions and dialogue among all citizens. We express solidarity with peaceful demonstrations, we deplore the violence from radical groups, and we urge all citizens to seek ways of understanding, reconciliation and peace”

In conclusion, Movimiento Ecologico de Venezuela declares its commitment to boost the national dialogue among all political forces, with the ambition to promote a culture of peace and respect. “We call for open dialogue on the basis of the protection of human rights, democracy and freedom of expression”.

CLIMATE AND ENERGY

New Zealand going solar

This month New Zealand Greens MP Russel Norman delivered a [visionary speech about their party's energy policy](#). Excerpts are highlighted below:

- This year, we will show New Zealand what a green government will look like.
- The Green Party plans to make New Zealand 100 percent renewable in electricity by 2030.
- Under the Greens' Solar Homes' initiative, individuals and families will be able to get low-cost loans from government to install solar power on the roof of their home so that they can tap into free and clean power to generate their own electricity.
- Solar Homes loans will be repaid through rates and the loan attaches to the house which allows families and businesses to invest without the concern they will lose their investment if they move house within a few years. Once you start generating solar power, you will also be able to sell any surplus power back into the grid at a fair price.
- Many New Zealand homes are exposed annually to 20-30 times more energy from the sun than they actually use in electricity or gas. Solar power



helps reduce household living costs while also reducing the cost to the planet.

- However, New Zealand's emissions are at their highest levels ever and trending up. Since we signed up to the UN process in 1992, our emissions have risen nearly 60 percent. Latest Government figures project another 50 percent increase by 2030. We are going in the opposite direction to where we need to be going, and fast.
- Solar Homes, coupled with NZ Power, are the building blocks of a cleaner, cheaper, smarter electricity network that returns the power to New Zealanders.

Ultimately, it's all about energy freedom and freedom from a future dependent on fossil fuels and climate disaster. It's what a smarter, greener economy looks like. This is the New Zealand that I want our sons and daughters to grow up in. It's a New Zealand to get excited about — one that just keeps getting better and better. Bring on the election.

The Philippine Green Party's Village Eco-Governance Development Framework



Social Change is about electing leaders and developing and implementing an alternative system to improve people's experiences and to realise their aspirations through society. The Philippine Green Party ([Partido Kalikasan](#)) is learning from lessons from own past and from experiences of others living in similar geographical and political settings. From these reflections we are building our Green governance model.

Following the Philippine Green Party's 2013 electoral success in 13 villages, the party has identified this year's major work areas: 1) develop community-based enterprises that will generate local green economy, 2) enable increased participatory democracy at the village level, and 3) implement a ecologically-based policies for the legislature.

The party's work is organised as a Village Eco-Governance Development Framework (VEGDF), and can be read in detail at on the [Asia-Pacific Green federation Website](#).

The party will support village leaders' understanding of Green governance through their own experiences and reflective learning. Imperative to the success of the program is the role of the Asia Pacific Greens Federation (APGF) in developing networks of likeminded groups and individuals who can share knowledge, information and other technical expertise. The APGF maintains a catalogue of theory and best practices from grassroots to governments that can be a big help for developing the Philippine Green Party. Let's walk the talk and join us in becoming exemplars in local Green governance!

LAND GRABBING IN AFRICA

Les Verts du Niger en première ligne

En Afrique, la problématique de l'accaparement des terres prend de plus en plus de l'ampleur au point de déboucher sur de terribles drames humains et de désastres écologiques. Les paysans qui perdent leurs moyens de production et se trouvent obligés de se transformer en ouvriers agricoles sur leur propres terres. Les terres à leur tour sont saccagées et soumises à de fortes dégradations aux conséquences désastreuses pour l'équilibre des écosystèmes.



Depuis le mois de décembre 2013, les Verts du Niger se sont attaqués à un des problèmes cruciaux qui touchent la région de Tillabéry et celle de Niamey, la capitale où de puissants spéculateurs fonciers ont entrepris depuis près d'une décennie l'accaparement des ressources partagées. C'est plusieurs milliers d'hectares de terres constituées de plateaux, des aires de pâturages, des couloirs de passage des animaux, des mares et des collines qui sont vendus à tour de bras à des spéculateurs fonciers aux nombres desquels des promoteurs immobiliers. Leur but, raser ces vastes espaces réservés à l'élevage pour en faire des parcelles. A la base des chefs coutumiers se disant détenteurs coutumiers des terres les vendent à raison de 20 000 FCFA soit environ 30 euros l'hectare qui au finish sera vendu à 6 000 000 F CFA soit euros.

Devant la gravité de la situation, le Président du parti Vert a vivement réagi en écrivant aux plus hautes autorités de l'Etat, Président de la République, Premier Ministre et Ministre de l'Environnement pour leur demander d'arrêter le crime écologique en cours.

Parallèlement une procédure judiciaire est engagée contre les auteurs et leurs complices par l'Association pour la Redynamisation de l'Elevage (AREN). D'ores et déjà plusieurs personnes sont sous le verrou dont l'influent Boubé Djassibo, ancien député et membre d'un important parti politique de la mouvance au pouvoir. La justice et le parti Vert et l'AREN tiennent bon et maintiennent la pression face aux multiples tentatives d'intervention pour étouffer l'affaire. A suivre..

INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

The Group of 20 – G20 Australia

Finance ministers from the world's richest countries flew into Sydney in February for the first of many meetings leading to this year's G20 summit in Brisbane, Australia. The G20's long-standing commitment to phase out fossil fuel subsidies did not however make it onto the agenda. On the other hand, facilitating trillions of dollars in private infrastructure investment was central, particularly through PPPs (public private partnerships) being promoted by both the G20 and the B20. The question is what kind of infrastructure and for whose benefit? The C20 (civil society groups) were not invited.

More information: [Australia's official G20 page](#); [C20 website](#); [HBF G20 website](#); [B20 website](#).

ELECTIONS COMING SOON

- *Australia Lost votes cause new election*

Australia's first ever Senate by-election will be held in Western Australia in April or May because the Australian Electoral Commission lost 1370 ballot papers during a vote recount after the September 2013 national election. Not since 1907 has a new Senate vote been needed and that was only for one Senator. This time it is for six positions. The Greens are already off and running with a strong campaign for our lead candidate Scott Ludlam.

<http://www.greenswa.org.au/>

- *Colombian Elections on March 9th*
- *European Elections May 22nd to 25th 2014– [check how to vote if you are leaving outside Europe!](#) (work in progress, more information will be provided soon)*
- *Indian Elections will be held in April/May*

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GLOBAL GREENS NEWS

Eastern Africa Greens Federation established in Kampala, Uganda

The **East Africa Greens Federation** congress brought together leaders and representatives of Eastern African Green parties from Rwanda, Uganda, Kenya and Burundi who met 8th – [9th November 2013 in Kigali, Rwanda](#) and resolved that the headquarters of the **EAGF** will be based in Kampala, Uganda. The EAGF headquarters have been established on National Insurance Corporation Building (NIC), Plot 4 Pilkington Road, Kampala Uganda. EAGF is a membership of Green Political Parties and Movements in Eastern Africa working in a coalition .

First anniversary for the Global Greens Secretariat and new team of volunteer newsletter editors

On March 15th the [Global Greens Secretariat](#) will celebrate its 1st year anniversary! In this occasion, we give a warm welcome to the new team of volunteer newsletter editors:

- *Jessika Isakkson* is a political adviser for the Green party mayor in Norrköping, *Sweden*. “We have responsibility for urban planning. I am also a politically elected member of the municipal council of junior education as well as a jury-member in the district court.”
- *Barry Lowe from Australia*, has a background in newspaper and broadcast journalism, working in various parts of the world. He's also taught journalism, in Australia, Hong Kong and the UK. Recently he's developed a focus on communication that supports environmental causes and activities. He's an active member of the Australian Greens Party
- *Marnie Glickman* is a proud Global Greens volunteer since 2004. She has worked on more than 24 Green Party campaigns across the *United States*. She is a former co-chair of the Green Party of the United States and former managing director of the Green Party of California. She currently works for Reverend Billy Talen, an ecological performance artist who also was the Green Party candidate for Mayor of New York City in 2009. She lives with her family in San Rafael, California. You can follow her on Twitter @marniemix or email her at marnie.glickman@gmail.com.
- *Simon Mader* got involved with the green party of his home-town Tübingen (SW-Germany) during an internship with the Green transportation politician Winfried Hermann. His enthusiasm for cycling and the political showdown around Stuttgart21 led him to study in a geographical masters program of sustainable transportation in Dijon. He is going to graduate after an internship at the Sustainable Urban Transport Programm with the GIZ in Frankfurt-Eschborn. Joinable on twitter as @velo_cityst.

CAN YOU HELP?

Thanks to Jessika Isakkson, volunteer newsletter editor from Sweden, Margaret Blakers, Global Greens Convenor, Steve Emmott, leading European representative in the Global Greens Coordination, Keli Yen, leading Asian representative in the Global Greens Coordination, Adamou Garba, African representative to the Global Greens Coordination and Manuel Diaz, Green Party of Venezuela for contributing to this [Global Greens newsletter, February 2014](#)

Next Global Grees Newsletter : end of April, 2014

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](#)
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