

European Green Party/EFGP_{aisbl}
6th COUNCIL MEETING
Berlin, 16-18 March 2007



North Sea Greens meeting, Berlin, Friday 16-03-2007

Present were representatives from GP England/Wales, Sweden, SF Denmark, Groen! Belgium, Greens Denmark, Scotland.

The meeting was split into two parts – the first part an incomplete round-up of party activities and the second part a discussion arising from the rejection by the EGP committee of the NSG request for funding for a meeting in Copenhagen.

Eloi Glorieux, Groen!, Belgium

There will be elections next October; Groen! are anticipating that they will improve on their disaster of 2003. There will be federal elections in June, and Groen! hope to exceed the 5% threshold and see up to 8 elected in both houses of parliament.

One of the problems they are facing is that most parties call themselves green these days, and offer green incentives. To combat this, Groen! have chosen a radical ecological programme, not one concentrating on economic growth. However, people are still blaming the Greens for all their ills, something that has been going on since 2003.

Jakob Nørhøj, SF Denmark

SF had a disastrous election in 2005. They now have a new chairman and are seeking to be a leading force in the opposition. They hope to be part of the next government, and are being considered as future partners in the next government. This wouldn't have happened in the past.

SF achieved 6% of the vote at the last election, and are currently at 8-9% in opinion polls, with a goal of 10%. There has been a recent increase in membership and it now stands at almost 10,000, a record. They have the same problem as Groen! in that other parties are trying to be Green as well. They reckon that welfare will be the big issue at the next election.

Magnus Johansson, Sweden

They will have elections in 2010; last time there was co-operation with the Social Democrat government on 121 topics. The Greens had been accused of not wanting to promote growth in the economy. The right wing parties had prepared well for the last elections. (JS – I don't know if the previous and next sentences are meant to be connected) There have been several scandals in the new government, with ministers resigning for not paying tax on wages paid to domestic staff.

The Greens in Sweden are now at 6-7% in the opinion polls, compared with 5.2% in the last election. Climate change issues are really strong in Sweden.

We then discussed issues relating to our funding request being rejected – there wasn't time after that to return to the party activities session.

Although some scepticism was expressed about the usefulness of the network, we decided that we would try to find out if parties really were interested in being part of a meeting on a topic such as how we deal with all the other parties saying that climate change is important.

It's therefore possible that there might be a meeting in Copenhagen after all, but that would be with participants staying with local members and funding their own travel. We didn't try to work out what we would do about parties which couldn't afford to reimburse travel costs.

John Street