

Mediterranean Network Meeting

1. Next Med Net Meeting

Date: 13-15 June 2008

Location: Nicosia, Cyprus

Subject: Relations of the EU with the Mediterranean countries (South Europe, North Africa and the Middle East)
The programme will be prepared by Cyprus Green Party and will be sent by e-mail shortly.

Greens from the non-European countries will be invited and an effort will be made to “twin” European and non-European countries around the Mediterranean Sea and prepare common papers.

2. Country Reports

Albania:

- Albania has received an invitation to join NATO and the Albanian Greens support this because they believe that being in NATO offers security in the country and it is also a step towards EU membership.
- At the moment changes in the electoral system are underway which are complicated and require regional proportionality which will make it even more difficult for the Greens to get elected in Parliament.

Malta

- In the last parliamentary and local elections, the Greens nearly doubled their votes from 0,7 % to 1,3%, however due to the electoral system, they did not manage to elect an MP.
- Despite the big disappointment, they are preparing a report that will indicate “what went wrong” and getting ready for the EU elections.

France

- The French Greens are at present campaigning on issues such as economy (unemployment), GMO's and foreign affairs (eg NATO, Afganistan, Tibet)
- In the recent local elections the Greens had very good results. They achieved 11-20% in some cities, 7% in Paris and elected a total of 42 mayors, including Dominique Voynet in a suburb of Paris (100.000 inhabitants)

Italy

- Due to the elections this weekend, the Greens are in a crisis and Berlusconi is expected to get back in power.
- The Greens are in the Rainbow Left Coalition and expect to elect 6-9 MPs (compared to the existing 16 MPs)
- The election system is expected to change after elections and will probably include a 5 % threshold.

Portugal

- No elections until 2009

- The social situation in the country is very bad with large street demonstrations (eg. teachers, public workers)
- The government is trying to change the electoral system, favouring the two large parties and also trying to pass a law that will allow the government to get into the information/data kept by the political parties.
- The climate change country-wide campaign is continuing with success.

Croatia

- The national elections last year did not go well (0,2 %)
- The Greens are trying to evolve small a local party to a national party. Bi-polarisation is happening in Croatia too.
- The Greens are active in the anti-NATO campaign as well as the anti-nuclear campaign
- Local elections in May 2009

Greece

- The year 2007 was a good year for the Greek Greens. Membership has increased 4 times (total 800 members) and new members include many intellectuals, activists etc.
- Achieved 1,1 % in the national elections, despite the low budget, no coverage from the media. Large dependence on the internet for the campaign.
- There is some hope now for the EU elections next year.

Turkey

- Finally the Turkish Greens will register as a political party in June!
- The Greens are trying to increase their membership by attracting intellectuals etc and expanding to cover issues other than purely environmental
- Currently involved in an anti-nuclear campaign.
- Local elections next year (probably in coalition with the socialists)
- Proposal to organise the 2009 Med Net meeting in Antalya on the subject of "Tourism and worker's rights" in order to demonstrate against the exploitation of women workers in the tourism industry.

Cyprus

- The Cyprus Greens support the new president of Cyprus, elected last February. The Greens now have 1 MP, the Commissioner for the Environment and many local councillors.
- In the EU elections the Greens will try to participate in a coalition
- The opening of the Ledra street check point on the Green Line even though it is more symbolic than of substance, it has helped to create a positive climate for a solution to the Cyprus issue.

Autumn Meeting of the MED Net

The French Greens will investigate the possibility of organising the next Med Net meeting in Autumn 2008 in France.