

EGP Supporters' Network Action Plan 2008-9

1. Supporters on Tour:

Every year the Network visits Green Summer/Autumn meetings and conferences to invite local grassroots Greens to participate in cross border activities, to pick up new ideas and to invite party members to join the EGP Individual Supporters' scheme.

In 2008 we visited Les Verts (Toulouse), Groen! (Nieuwpoort), Écolo (Borzée), the European Green Summer University (Frankfurt am Oder/Slubice) and the autumn conference of the Green party of England and Wales. We also were present at the European Social Forum in Malmö.

2. Annual *Heerlen* conferences

Open to all grassroots Greens, these conferences are an opportunity to freely discuss your ideas for a Europe of citizens with other Europeans, and to table other issues you'd like to exchange experiences and ideas about. The 7th conference will take place in Brussels, from 12-14 December, and has the 2009 elections as its central theme. Draft programme:

- *Opening plenary: How the Greens will win the European Elections of 2009 - challenges & strategies*
- *Our Social Europe – return of the basic income?*
- *Cutting emissions – compensate or avoid?*
- *The Cross Border Relay Tour – from here to June 2009*
- *Languages: from barriers to bridges; straight from America: the latest Campaign techniques*

And a Night in Brussels you will never forget.

3. Cross Border Relay Tour 2009

Before next year's European elections, the Network will organise a tour along European country borders as part of the common Green campaign. The tour travels along local elections events in which groups from different member states are involved. Shared challenges (improving cross border public transport, greening harbours, sharing best carbon reduction practices or bicycle schemes) or concerns (nuclear plants, air bases,) are at the core. We'll connect them to the common elections programme, showing that Europe starts at your doorstep and local and European solutions are often the same thing.

Those events will be linked to form a Europe wide chain, on paper, on the Internet and in reality. Our Zero Carbon Caravan or a Network delegation will participate, bringing EGP campaign material (if necessary), and taking local messages, plans, projects and green products to the European elections finish. The tour will offer ample space for sports meetings, multi-cultural cookery, and creative exchange. www.greenyourope.eu will keep you informed of the proceedings and invites you to add your own projects and views.

4. Cross Border Cooperation

A problem experienced at both sides of the border, like non-existent public transport or health services that don't match; a shared challenge like greening your harbour or regional economy, provide good reasons for joining hands. And existing town twinning structures or municipal contacts or simple curiosity can be the start of a lasting cooperation. The network encourages those by spotting existing examples and putting them online, and by helping local branches to find a partner abroad.

5. Actions and Campaigns

The Network also furthers grassroots participation in EGP actions and campaigns, and furthers Green presence in actions organised by NGO's that are close to us. In 2008 we might be present during International Climate Action Day, in 2009 we'll be calling upon all our party mates to go out for the common Green elections campaign.

6. And on the longer term: a Pool of Volunteers

The more ambitious the Greens are at the European level, the more work on that level has to be done. The Network will, together with the EGP office, set up a small database of volunteer jobs offered and wanted. In time that base might also be used by member parties looking for temporary extra skills.

Calendar

- 21/8 – 8/9 EGP Supporters on Tour
- 3 October: How to Green harbours? Groen! & GroenLinks start joint search for alternatives to Antwerp-Zeebrugge and Rotterdam-Flushing harbour expansions
- 9 October EGP council Montreuil
 - Thu 9, 15h: fringe meeting individual supportership
 - Sun 12, 9.30-11.15: voting EGP Individual Supporters' Network
- 29-30 November: Groen! launches registration of *individual EGP-supporters*
- 8/12 International Climate Action Day
- 12-14 December: Heerlen 7 Brussels - *Towards a Borderless European Elections Campaign*
- December 2008 – March 2009: regional cross border brainstorm
- Spring 2009: Cross Border Relay Tour 2009 & common Green elections campaign