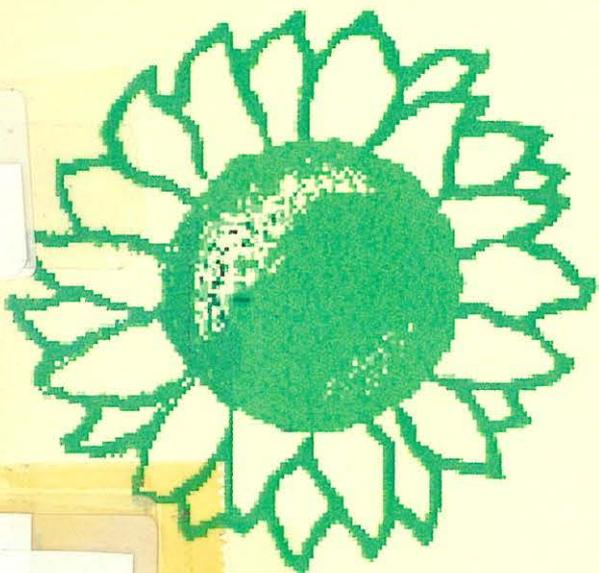
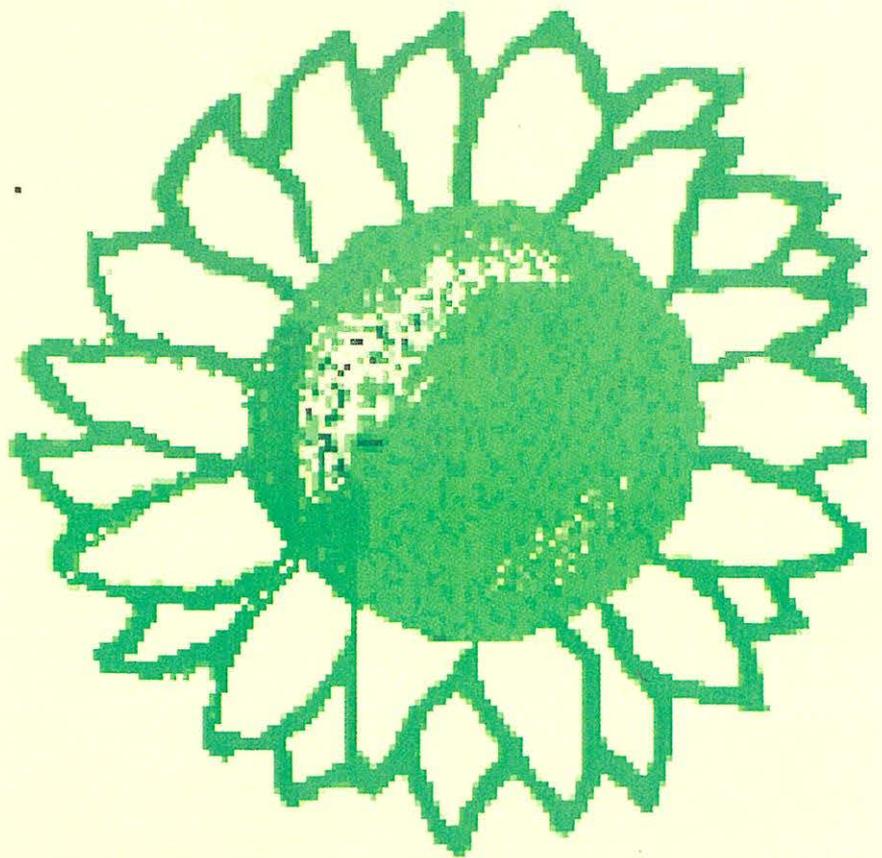
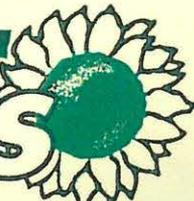


# EFGP Party Profiles



**EUROPEAN  
GREENS** 

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# EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF GREEN PARTIES

The Federation (EFGP) evolved from a loose network called the Co-ordination of Green Parties that was initiated in the early 1980s with six member parties. In 1993, the EFGP was created in Helsinki with 23 founding members, and today it is a formally registered organisation with its seat in Vienna and its administrative office in Brussels. Its purpose is to strengthen the Green political movement across the continent. Its task is to facilitate communication between its members, to support small parties and to coordinate policy-making throughout Europe.

Member parties send mandated delegates to twice-yearly Council meetings, where policy, strategy and progress are discussed. Ad hoc working groups form around policy issues, and regional networks meet to share research and to support campaigns. A nine-member executive Committee is elected for a three-year term to steer the day-to-day work of the Federation, to liaise with applicants, to build links with Green Ministers, MEPs and MPs, and to strengthen contact with the global Green movement.

Today, the EFGP represents 31 parties from across Europe, in addition to three observer groups. These parties are represented in 18 national parliaments and in the European Parliament by 192 Green Parliamentarians.

## MEMBER PARTIES:

Austria	Germany	Romania
Belgium ( <i>Agalev, Ecolo</i> )	Greece	Russia
Bulgaria	Hungary	Slovakia
Cyprus	Ireland	Spain
Czech Republic	Italy	Sweden
Denmark	Luxembourg	Switzerland
Estonia	Malta	Ukraine
Finland	Netherlands	United Kingdom
France	(Groen Links, de Groenen)	(England & Wales, Scotland)
Georgia	Norway	
	Portugal	

## OBSERVERS:

Federation of Young European Greens  
Poland: Ecological Forum of the Union for Freedom  
Denmark: Socialistisk Folkeparti

## FORMER COMMITTEES:

1994 – 1997

### *Secretary General*

Leo Cox, Belgium (1994)  
Anne de Boer, Netherlands (1994-1995, a.i.)  
Ralph Monö, Sweden (1995 – 1997)

### *Spokespersons*

Niki Kortvelyessy, England and Wales  
Pekka Sauri, Finland

### *Treasurer*

Brigitte Ernst, Belgium

### *Further Members*

Maria-Christine Aulas, France  
Paolo Bergamaschi, Italy  
Franz Floss, Austria  
Natalia Kirvalidze, Georgia  
Heidi Meinzolt-Depner, Germany

1997 – 2000

### *Secretary General*

Ralph Monö, Sweden (1997 – 1999)  
Niki Kortvelyessy (1999, a.i.)

### *Spokespersons*

Franz Floss, Austria  
Niki Kortvelyessy, England and Wales

### *Treasurer*

Jef Leestmans, Belgium

### *Further Members*

Arnold Cassola, Malta  
György Droppa, Hungary  
Brigitte Ernst, Belgium  
Catherine Grèze, France  
Heidi Meinzolt-Depner, Germany

2000 – 2003

### *Secretary General*

Arnold Cassola, Malta

### *Spokespersons*

Marian Coyne, Scotland  
Pekka Haavisto, Finland

### *Treasurer*

Jef Leestmans, Belgium

### *Further Members*

György Droppa, Hungary  
Catherine Grèze, France  
Marie Schaffer, Switzerland  
Frithjof Schmidt, Germany  
Gabriela Szuba, Poland

## AUSTRIA: DIE GRÜNEN

In November 1986 the Austrian Greens entered the Nationalrat (National Parliament). Since then, DIE GRÜNEN have become an essential political force in environmental, social and general political issues.

After a setback in the December 1995 general elections (4.81%), DIE GRÜNEN recovered and gained strength. The results in the 1996 European elections (6.81%) and in the regional elections throughout Upper and Lower Austria were satisfying, and eventually 1999 turned out to be the most successful year in the history of the Austrian Greens.

During the war against Yugoslavia in spring 1999, DIE GRÜNEN strongly criticised the NATO bombing and defended Austria's neutrality. This clear position and Johannes Voggenhuber's qualified work in Brussels enabled a Green victory in the European election on the 13th June 1999: 9.29% of the vote (more than 15% in the capital Vienna) and a second MEP—Mercedes Echerer. Mrs. Echerer, an actress who has long supported environmental and social initiatives, received a lot of support from artists and intellectuals.

The general elections on the 3rd October 1999 caused deep changes in Austria's political landscape. The Social Democrats (SPÖ) lost votes but remained the biggest party in the Parliament (33.15% of the vote). The right-wing populist Freedom Party (FPÖ) and the Christian-Democratic Peoples' Party (ÖVP) each gained 26.91%. But, for the first time, Jörg Haider's FPÖ became the second-strongest force—just 415 votes in front of ÖVP. DIE GRÜNEN scored its best result ever in general elections (7.40% with 342 260 votes), and the Liberal Forum's disappointing 3.65% caused its exit from Parliament.

The Greens now have 14 MPs: Dieter Brosz, Eva Glawischnig, Kurt Grünewald, Theresia Haidlmayr, Werner Kogler, Eva Lichtenberger, Ulrike Lunacek, Gabi Moser, Karl Öllinger, Madeleine Petrovic, Peter Pilz, Wolfgang Pirkhuber, Terezija Stoisits and Alexander Van der Bellen.

Van der Bellen, a Professor of Economy at the University of Vienna, was elected as chairman of the Green Parliamentary Group, and also re-elected as party spokesperson (by a national party congress on 22nd January 2000). He is very popular among the Austrian voters because his image is different than the typical "professional politician."

In the spring 2000, DIE GRÜNEN has representation in 7 of Austria's 9 regional parliaments (all regions except Carinthia and Burgenland), with 21 seats and 5.5% of the average vote. The Greens in Tyrol (7.96%) and in Vienna (7.94%) have been the most

successful. On the local level, the Greens have city council members in all 9 regional capitals. Hundreds of councillors in cities and communities, in addition to several vice mayors, have given the Greens a sound profile of being a very active party, connected to and cooperating with grassroot initiatives since its beginning in the 1970s.

Following the 1999 general election, long-lasting talks and negotiations between the parties of the outgoing government, SPÖ and ÖVP, finally were broken up at the end of January 2000. ÖVP-leader Wolfgang Schüssel (who has been foreign minister in the previous SPÖ-ÖVP government) formed a coalition with the FPÖ, thus becoming the first conservative federal chancellor since 1970. National and international protests started immediately because of deep concerns over the participation of a far right-wing party in a European government. Jörg Haider, leader of the Freedom Party and governor of the Austrian region, Carinthia, is well-known because of several positive sentences about certain aspects of the "Third Reich," and because of the xenophobic and racist FPÖ election campaigns, particularly in Vienna. The Greens play a vital role in the protest movement against the formation of the ÖVP-FPÖ government, both inside the Parliament as well as on the outside. On the 19th February, about 300 000 people gathered at Vienna's Heldenplatz to show their resistance to a government that includes a racist party, that abolishes the Womens' Ministry and the Ministry for Environment, that introduces heavy burdens for sick people and elderly and unemployed people who wish to retire earlier, and that plans severe financial cutbacks for (critical) contemporary art. According to opinion polls, many disappointed former ÖVP-voters are turning toward the Greens.

"The spring will be green" was the slogan of the Vienna Greens for the city council election on March 25th 2001. Their aim of doubling their vote was almost achieved - in the end, their vote climbed to 12.5% and that means 50% more votes than last time - a result which gives them 11 seats on the city council. In the district election the Green Party did even better: in the inner district more than 20% and in one district the majority with 33%. Also we got the majority of the "EU-foreigners" who were allowed according to EU law - to vote on district level.

The fact that the Social Democrats are in opposition since the 4th February 2000 is making a "red-green" coalition in Austria on the national level at least thinkable—both politically and mathematically. However, it still depends on changes inside the SPÖ (e.g. its environmental and environmental policy) and on the duration of the present government coalition. The strong, international isolation of the present coalition could soon lead to its collapse, resulting in advanced elections.

### CURRENT GOVERNMENT:

National Government: FPÖ (Freedom Party) and ÖVP (Christian-Democrats) since 4/2/00; Chancellor: Wolfgang Schüssel (ÖVP)  
Other Parties Represented in National Parliament: SPÖ (65 seats), FPÖ (52 seats), ÖVP (52 seats), DIE GRÜNEN (14 seats)

### ELECTION INFORMATION:

Next National Elections: 2003 (If the current government survives "politically")

#### Latest Green Party Election Result:

National Election Year:	1999	Total No.National Votes:	342 260
MPs:	14	% Gained	7,40
European Election Year:	1999	Total No.European Votes:	260 273
MEPs:	2	% Gained	9,29

## **BELGIUM: AGALEV**

Agalev is the Green Party of Flanders (Belgium). There is also a Green Party in Wallonia (French-speaking part of Belgium) called Ecolo. The two parties work closely together.

The name Agalev comes from "Anders Gaan Leven" (living differently). Agalev entered the national parliament in 1981 and the European Parliament in 1984. Agalev increased its members in parliament in the national elections of 1985, 1987 and 1991. The 1995 elections were the first, after the institutional reform that transformed Belgium into a Federal state. Next to the members of the Federal parliament, the members of the regional parliaments (Flanders, Wallonia, Brussels, and German-speaking areas of Belgium) were elected directly for the first time.

Agalev's leading principles are those of democracy, ecology, social justice and pacifism. Agalev has never been an "environmentalist" party in the narrow sense of the word. Its direction has always been based on ecology. Over the years, the Flemish Greens have formulated a wide range of proposals dealing with ecological transformation of the economy, social security, transport, nature conservation, redistribution of labour, activation of democracy, peace and security, sustainable energy and women's issues.

The Belgian Greens have had a profound impact on the "greening" of the political agenda and have established themselves as a relatively stable force in the political landscape. They participated in the crucial "Saint Michael Agreements," which resulted in Belgium being reformed into a Federal state. During these negotiations, the Greens succeeded in introducing a system of ecological taxation as legislation. These "eco-taxes," however, have been almost completely stripped of their effect by the government.

Since their first appearance in parliament, the Flemish Greens have called for strict rules that guarantee the independence of deputies. The successive political, judicial and corruption scandals that emerged in recent years and led to the so-called massive "white marches" proved the Greens' point. Although they remain very critical towards the European Union due to the Maastricht and Amsterdam Treaties, the Belgian Greens of Agalev and Ecolo can in general be described as pro-federalist. We are strongly in favour of a European Political Union that strives for democracy, collective security, and socially and environmentally sustainable development.

### **CURRENT GOVERNMENT:**

**National Government:** Socialists: PS (French), SP (Flemish); Liberals: PRL/FDF (French), VLD (Flemish); Greens: Ecolo (French), Agalev (Flemish)

**Other Parties Represented in National Parliament:** PSC, CVP, VU, Front National, Vlaams Blok

### **ELECTION INFORMATION:**

**Next National Elections:** 2003 (*Regional level is 2004*)

#### **Latest Green Party Election Results:**

National Election year:	1999	Total No. National Votes:	434 449
MPs: 9*/ 1 Minister and 1 Secretary of State		% Gained:	7,0
European Elections:	1999	Total No. European Votes:	423 687
MEPs:	1	% Gained:	12,8

\* Plus 5 Senators (7,1% Gained) ; Flemish Parliament, 12 MPs and 2 Ministers (11,6 % Gained)

On a national level, Agalev has a Political Secretary (spokesman and political coordinator) and a Party Secretary (organisational coordinator). The Party Bureau consists of 12 to 15 members. Party volunteers make up the majority of staff in the Party Bureau. They occupy seats next to the parliamentary group leaders and national secretaries. The volunteers are elected by Congress. The Party Bureau meets once a week. The Congress is open to all members, and meets at least twice a year. In between the congresses, the Political Council holds the responsibility for the general political course of the party. The regions are represented by regional political secretaries in the Political Council, along with a delegation of members in the local and provincial councils. The Political Council has between 35 and 50 members.

On a local level, groups also have a political and a party secretary. The local groups work together in regional political structures, which appoint candidates for both the Federal and Flemish elections. Currently the party has about 4 000 members.

Since the European, Federal and Regional elections in 1999 Agalev has 1 member in the European Parliament (with 12 % of the vote), 9 members in the Federal Parliament (7 % of the vote), 5 senators (11.4 % of the vote) and 12 members of the Flemish Parliament (11.6 % of the vote).

There are now 1 Green Minister in the coalition government between the Liberals, Social Democrats and the Greens: Magda Aelvoet, Minister of Consumers Issues, Health and Environment, and 1 State Secretary for Development, Eddy Boutmans. In the Flemish Government Agalev has two Ministers: Mieke Vogels, Minister of Welfare, Health and Equal Opportunities and Vera Dua, Minister of Environment and Agriculture.

Since the local elections in 2000, Agalev has managed to get 298 members into the local councils and 26 members in the provincial councils. On the local level, Agalev takes part in the administration of 31 cities/towns, including Antwerpen, Mechelen and Hasselt.

The next Federal elections will be held in 2003, the regional in 2004 and the next local (and provincial) elections will be in 2006.

## **BELGIUM: ECOLO**

ECOLO is the Green party of French speaking Belgium (Agalev is its sister party in Flanders). Ecolo was founded in March 1980. It contested parliamentary elections for the first time in 1981 and got 5% of the votes and 5 seats—2 in the House of Representatives and 3 in the Senate. To our knowledge, it was the first time in the world that Green representatives entered a parliament at the national level.

The last years saw a steady increase in support for the party. Our best scores were obtained in the European elections of 1989 (16,7%) and in 1999 (22,7%). The national elections of June 1999 were a big success for the Belgian Greens as well, placing ECOLO as the second largest party in the Brussels region (18,3 %) and the third largest in the Walloon region (18,2%) (after the Socialists and the Liberals). Our parliamentary representation in all assemblies has doubled.

At the local level, the last municipal elections (2000) gave ECOLO 466 (186 in '94) local councillor seats (doubled in the Walloon region, tripled in Brussels), along with participation in the executive in 30 municipalities, including several ones in the Brussels Region.

The grounds for this success is certainly due to the capacity of ECOLO to behave in politics in a different way - and to communicate about it - which means being transparent, open and informative (promoting democracy and citizen participation), as well as having the ability to address issues such as the economic, social and environmental crisis in a global and creative way, without forgetting the situation of the Southern hemisphere.

First considered a purely environmentalist movement, ECOLO became progressively a generalist party, as shown by its last legislative programme (which includes more than 1800 concrete proposals for change in every sector of the Belgian society, from

agriculture to culture, from education to 3D age). This programme was written after a two-year process of openness to the most creative and progressive sectors of civil society, called "Les Etats généraux de l'écologie politique." This process not only provided many concrete proposals for change in various sectors, but also allowed for many partnerships with experts, trade unions and civil society. It was a way as well to garner a lot of new members and sympathisers, some of which have now been elected on ECOLO's lists.

Another reason for our electoral success : the former majority parties - the Socialists and the Christian Democrats - because of their conservative character, were not able to respond to the electorate's pressure for change after several issues, like the dioxine crisis, arose just before the 1999 elections.

In that context, ECOLO and Agalev entered the federal and regional governments with the Liberals and the Socialists, after hard negotiations ... and some compromises. Because of these, the agreement to enter the executive was supported by only 60% of the members taking part in the extraordinary general assembly of Ecolo in July 1999, and was refused for the Brussels region, where ECOLO remains in the opposition.

After one year and a half of ECOLO's participation in the government, the assessment is quite positive, even though it shows also the impediments to get sustainable results in many issues such as food security, treatment of refugees and migrants, transport policy and negotiations for sharing out the reduction of the CO2 emissions. etc. Therefore, an appraisal process was initiated at the end of 2000, and new projects are in discussion in 2001 in order to restart the internal dynamic process, as well as partnerships with other green parties across Europe. Well, for now let our Ministers and MPs obtain new successes during the Belgian presidency of the EU ...

### **CURRENT GOVERNMENT:**

**National Government:** Socialists: PS (French), SP (Flemish); Liberals: PRL/FDF (French), VLD (Flemish); Greens: Ecolo (French), Agalev (Flemish)

**Other Parties Represented in National Parliament:** PSC, CVP, VU, Front National, Vlaams Blok

### **ELECTION INFORMATION:**

**Next National Elections:** 2003 (*Next Local Elections: 2006*)

#### **Latest Green Party Election Results:**

National Election Year:	1999	Total No. National Votes:	458 658
MPs: 11 ; 1 Minister and 1 Secretary of State		% Gained:	19,8
European Elections:	1999	Total No. European Votes:	525 316
MEPs:	3	% Gained:	22,7

\* Plus 3 Senators

# **BULGARIAN GREEN PARTY**

The Bulgarian Green Party was established in December 1989. It was one of the first opposition organizations to be founded following the fall of the Communist regime.

The Green Party took part in the first democratic national elections in 1990 in coalition with the Union of the Democratic Forces (UDF). It won 17 seats in the Grand National Assembly (the Constitutional Assembly). The Greens were also widely represented at the municipal level, winning the elections for the mayor of Sofia. The elected mayor was A. Karakachanov, leader of the Green party.

After the UDF split in 1991, the Green Party did not manage to overcome the 4% threshold needed for Parliamentary representation in the elections of October 1991. The UDF split triggered a split in the Green Party as well, and part of the party remained in the coalition under another name (Conservative Ecological Party). Still, the Green Party kept its strong presence in local authorities in a number of big cities (e.g. In Sofia, the Greens got 8% of the seats in the Municipal Council).

In 1994, the Greens took part in the parliamentary elections within a new coalition (The Democratic Alternative for the Republic) and received 3.81% of the votes (only 0.19% off the threshold to enter Parliament!). In the municipal elections in October 1995, the Green Party won 37 seats in different towns and appointed 5 village mayors. In the 1997 early national elections, the Green Party took part in the newly-established coalition, Alliance for National Salvation, alongside the Movement for Rights and Freedoms (the Turkish party), the Liberal Union "New Choice", the Bulgarian Agrarian National Union "Nikola Petkov" and the Party of the Democratic Centre. The party won two seats in Parliament. At present, the Party does not take part in coalitions.

## **Current Political Situation**

During the last national elections in 1997, the Union of the Democratic Forces (UDF) came into power with a majority in

## **CURRENT GOVERNMENT:**

**National Government:** Union of The Democratic Forces (now a single party) and the Popular Union (a coalition of the Bulgarian Agrarian National Union and the Democratic Party)

**Other Parties Represented in National Parliament:** The Union of the Democratic Forces, the Bulgarian Socialist Party, the Bulgarian Agrarian National Union, the Democratic Party, the Movement for Rights and Freedoms, the Bulgarian Green Party, the Liberal Union "New Choice", the Party of the Democratic Centre, the Bulgarian Business Block, the Euroleft

## **ELECTION INFORMATION:**

**Next National Elections:** June 2001

### **Latest Green Party Election Results:**

National Election Year:	1997	Total No. National Votes:	(In coalition)
MPs:		% Gained:	(In coalition)
European Elections:	NA / EUA*	Total No. European Votes:	NA / EUA
MEPs:	NA / EUA	% Gained:	NA / EUA

\* EUA = European Union Applicant Country

Parliament and replaced the former majority held by the Bulgarian Socialist Party (former Communist Party). In that period, the country was undergoing hard times, marked by the heavy financial crisis in the beginning of 1996.

The political situation in Bulgaria almost ten years after the changes of 1989 has shifted to the following: one large big political party in power, currently the UDF, another large opposition party (BSP), and a number of smaller parties, which tend to gravitate to either one or the other.

At the start of their mandate, the UDF demonstrated a strong political will to resume the reforms that had come to an end during the Socialist rule. Some expedient steps have been taken, such as introducing a currency board and signing an agreement with the IMF. Regarding their parliamentary initiatives, the main aim is to update legislation, bringing it into compliance with European standards with a view of eventually joining the EU.

In spite of the relative stabilization, both in political and economic terms, the country is still facing serious problems. In the political sphere, there are still attempts to squash any political alternative that could threaten the current government. The major problem facing the Bulgarian economy is the staggering privatization which determines the speed of structural reform.

## **Political Goals**

In this situation, the major political goals of the Green Party are the following:

- Stabilization of the independent political image of the party.
- Creating an alternative to the present government of the country; Looking for partners with ideas close to those of the Green Party.
- Working out a wide front of environmental initiatives with other organizations close to the Green Party.

# CYPRUS GREEN PARTY

The Cyprus Green Party, or "Ecological-Environmental Movement of Cyprus," was established in February 1996. Most of its founding members have been active environmentalists and members of pressure groups or similar organisations for many years.

In May 1996, the Cyprus Green Party took part in the parliamentary elections and gained 1% of the votes. Unfortunately, this was not sufficient to enter parliament, but the results were not disappointing given the short lifespan of the Party. In December 1996, the Cyprus Green Party tasted its first success in local elections, with the election of one member to the local Council of Nicosia, the capital of Cyprus. The party also succeeded in electing two more Council members, in cooperation with local pressure groups, in other local Councils. In the recent elections of May 2001 the Cyprus Green party succeeded in electing its first MP.

The Cyprus Green Party is a dynamic and developing party. Despite its tender years, the Cyprus Green Party has already added a few ecological successes to its name, such as putting an end to the British military exercises in Akamas and banning advertising of cigarette products, outside schools. Some of the new challenges are the following:

- De-nuclearizing the Eastern Mediterranean region
- Declaring Akamas peninsula a National Park
- Demanding a sustainable water management policy
- Blocking the tourism policy, which promotes golf courses
- Campaigning to reduce inner city pollution levels

The Cyprus Green Party became the 30th member of the European Federation of Green Parties in March 1998.

## **CURRENT GOVERNMENT:**

**National Government:** Coalition of DHSY (Right) and United Democrats

**Other Parties Represented in National Parliament:** AKEL (Left), Democratic Party, Social Democrats, New Horizons, ADHK, Cyprus Green Party

## **ELECTION INFORMATION:**

**Next National Elections:** May 2006

### **Latest Green Party Election Results:**

National Election Year:	2001	Total No. National Votes:	8127
MPs:	1	% Gained:	1,98
European Elections:	NA / EUA *	Total No. European Votes:	NA / EUA
MEPs:	NA / EUA	% Gained:	NA / EUA

\* EUA = European Union Applicant Country

## **CZECH REPUBLIC: STRANA ZELENÝCH**

The Green Party in the Czech Republic was founded in 1990. At the outset, the Party was well supported and was comprised of many members, although it failed to enter the national parliament in the first free general elections because of the 5 % threshold set by the government. However, in the local elections in autumn of 1990, the Party was very successful. In 1992, before the general elections, the Party entered into a coalition with two other parties, obtaining 3 seats in the parliament. This success was dearly paid for, though, with an outflow of members who did not consider the coalition partners very suitable for the Greens. As the Green Party did not have any support of NGOs either, it started losing its position on the political scene. The party leadership was not able to gain public support even if the party was present in the Parliament. Also financial management of the party was very bad. Eventually the leadership was forced to resign and a new period of the party's life started.

During preparation for the general elections in 1996, the Greens managed to regain many members, and its activities were thought to bring important successes. Unfortunately, due to some formal errors in registration and other circumstances, the Party did not participate in those elections, therefore slowing down the party's activities once again.

At the party Congress in 1996, the Green Party elected a new executive board. The new board activated the membership and managed to prepare the party for the preliminary general elections in 1998. The Green Party set up an independent list of candidates and gained 1,12 % (67 700 votes). It was less than we had expected, and because of the 3 % limit for reimbursement of campaign expenses (90 CZK for 1 vote) and repayment of the deposit (1.6 mil. CZK), the party's economic situation became

very bad. As for the 1998 local elections, the results were a bit worse than before. Nevertheless, at the local level we have a position that offers us the hope of winning some recognition in the future. The aim to join the European Green Federation was achieved in 1997.

In March 1999, the latest party congress was held. The structure of the executive board was changed and the new body was elected. Now the executive board consists of a president, 4 vice-presidents and 14 members. Each member is responsible for one region and also for one department. The main political issues we focus on are energy policy, transport, waste management, health care, unemployment and EU enlargement.

The electoral system is different for different bodies of representatives. The Parliament consists of the House of Deputies and the Senate. The House of Deputies has 200 seats, and the deputies are elected in a proportional system in 8 constituencies. The threshold is 5% (within the whole Republic) for an individual party, 7% for a coalition of two parties, and 9% for a coalition of more than two parties. Regular elections are held once every 4 years.

The Senate has 81 seats and a majority electoral system. The voting is usually held in two rounds, unless one candidate gains more than 50 % of the votes in the first round. Every two years one-third of the senators are elected; Each senator has a 6-year mandate. Local elections are held every four years, according to a proportional system. There is no threshold and voters can vote either for a party or for various individual candidates from different lists.

### **CURRENT GOVERNMENT:**

**National Government:** Social Democratic Party

**Other Parties Represented in National Parliament:** Civic Democratic Party, Christian Democrats, Unit of Freedom, Communist Party

### **ELECTION INFORMATION:**

**Next National Elections:** 2002

#### **Latest Green Party Election Results:**

National Election Year:	1998	Total No. National Votes:	67 700
MPs:	0	% Gained:	1,12
European Elections:	NA / EUA*	Total No. European Votes:	NA / EUA
MEPs:	NA / EUA	Gained:	NA / EUA

\*EUA = European Union Applicant Country

## DENMARK: DE GRØNNE

### History of De Grønne

The Danish Green Party, "De Grønne," was founded in October 1983. The aim of the party is to run for national parliament and to be represented in regional and local bodies in Denmark, in order to build an ecologically based society capable of prioritising environmental and human well-being over economic and business interests. De Grønne want to halt growing environmental pollution and the poisoning of our food. We believe that a lower material standard of living can create a "sunder" society with less pollution and less waste of resources.

De Grønne prefer alternative energy sources such as sun, wind and water. We are against the use of nuclear power. Other main points in our programme include decentralization, a common wage to all citizens regardless of their employment status and resistance to global armament. We support the international cooperation through the UN, yet are against the European Union, which we regard as a threat to democracy and the independence of European countries.

### Current Political Situation

In 1987, 1988 and 1990, De Grønne ran for the Danish National Parliament, "Folketinget," but did not succeed in getting the 2% of the votes required to enter the Parliament.

After 1990, the Danish Election Act was changed in such a way that made it even more difficult for new parties to run for Parliament. As in the old system, a new party must collect signatures from 20 000 eligible voters. The difference now is that the signatures have to be written on a certain form and given to

the party. The party then sends the form to the national registration office for approval. The registration office then sends the form back to the voter, who sends the approved form to the party. If the party has collected 20 000 signatures in this way within 18 months and has handed them to the Ministry of the Interior, they must further wait one or two months for the final approval.

In view of this system, De Grønne decided in 1996 to join a coalition of small parties opposed to the EU called "Demokratisk Fornyelse" (Democratic Renewal). Together, we succeeded in collecting the necessary signatures and received approval to run for the parliamentary national elections in 1998, without success however.

Today, De Grønne has a total of two local seats; One in Holeby (Mr. Kåre Rasmussen) and one in Odder, near Aarhus (Mr. Kai Dalsgaard).

Regarding the referendum over the Amsterdam Treaty, which took place in 1998, De Grønne cooperated with other parties and movements against the EU in order to get a "NO!"

Following the 1998 national elections, De Grønne have decided they are prepared to stand alone in the next national elections and not in cooperation with "Democratic Renewal." In January 2000, De Grønne decided to collect signatures from 20 000 eligible voters for approval to run in the next national election, which is expected to take place in the winter of 2001/2002. The collection will start 1 May 2000.

### CURRENT GOVERNMENT:

**National Government:** Socialdemokracy and Radikale (Centre Party)

**Other Parties Represented in National Parliament:** Socialdemokratiet, Radikale, Socialistik Folkeparti, Enhedslisten-de rød-grønne, Venstre, Konservative, Fremskridtspartiet, Dansk Folkeparti, Centrums-demokraterne, Kristeligt Folkeparti

### ELECTION INFORMATION:

**Next National Elections:** *When the government decides, but before 1/4/2002*

#### Latest Green Party Election Results:

National Election Year:	1998	Total No. National Votes:	23 037
MPs:	0	% Gained:	0,3
European Elections:	-- *	Total No. European Votes:	--
MEPs:	--	% Gained:	--

\*Did not contest

## **ESTONIA: EESTI ROHELISED**

The Estonian Green Party is a political party and follower of the Estonian Green Movement (EGM), which was formed in 1988 during a massive movement against the Soviet Union's plans to start exploitation of huge phosphorite deposits on Estonia's north-eastern coast. EMG was one of the very first NGOs in Estonia under Soviet rule. It was internationally recognised and became a full member of Friends of the Earth in 1989. However, EGM also registered the same year as a political party and played a key role in the political process that led to the gradual sovereignty of this Baltic Republic during the late 1980s and finally to full independence in August 1991. Also in 1989, EGM became a member of the Coordination of the European Green Parties.

A split occurred in August 1989, when members wanting more political activities formed the independent Estonian Green Party. This weakened the EGM who, despite this, got eight MPs out of 105 in the first multi-party election to the Estonian Supreme Council in 1990. One of their deputies, former Soviet apparatchnik Mr. Arnold Rütel, was even nominated "First President of the Republic." The chairman of Estonian Greens, Mr. Toomas Frey, became the first Environment Minister in Europe. A number of Greens were also elected to local governments.

The Greens did, however, lose ground when independence movements gave way to emerging major political parties, modelled after and financially supported by their Western European counterparts. In the 1992 general elections, the Greens

were only able to scrape 2.6% of the vote and one deputy to the 101-strong Riigikogu (Parliament).

### **Estonian Greens Today**

The Estonian Green party was formally registered in March 1992. It had approximately 250 members and 3 regional branches. In January 1995, the party's annual congress elected Dr Jüri Martin as chairman of the Estonian Greens. In the March 1995 elections, the Greens achieved only 0.8 % of the votes and did not get any seats in parliament (there is a 5% threshold). Despite such electoral failure, the Greens gained an average of about 3% in the public opinion polls. After changes in the act on NGOs, political parties were supposed to re-register for the 1 October 1998 deadline, under the condition that they have at least 1000 members. Because the Greens did not pass the threshold, party registering was cancelled, and the EGs were no longer eligible to run in the elections. The Party Congress has decided to continue as a NGO until the threshold is reached. Today local branches of EG operate in Tallinn, Pärnu and Sillamäe, total number of members is 60.

The main political activities of the Estonian Greens are now focused on preparing proposals for a green tax reform, promoting an "environmental space" concept as the cornerstone for sustainable development in Estonia and the Baltic Sea region, launching green consumer campaigns and initiating debates on issues related to the proposed Estonian EU membership.

### **CURRENT GOVERNMENT:**

**National Government:** (% of votes and no. of seats in Parliament) Pro Patria (16,09%; 18), Reform Party (15,92%; 18), Moderate Peoples Party (15,21%; 17)

**Other Parties Represented in National Parliament:** Centre Party (23,41%; 28), Coalition Party (7,58%; 7), Rural Party (7,27%; 7), Russian Peoples Coalition Party (6,13%; 6)

### **ELECTION INFORMATION:**

**Next National Elections:** March 2002

#### **Latest Green Party Election Results:**

National Election Year:	1995 *	Total No. National Votes:	4 495
MPs:	0	% Gained:	0,8
European Elections:	NA / EUA*	Total No. European Votes:	NA / EUA
MEPs:	NA / EUA	% Gained:	NA / EUA

\*Estonian Greens were not eligible to run for the 1999 elections. Some greens were on the list of the Centre Party, but they did not gain enough individual votes.

\* EUA = European Union Applicant Country

# FINLAND: VIHREÄ LIITTO

## Party History

The roots of the Finnish Greens as a political movement go back to the direct action tradition of the late 1970s, when a growing awareness of the deterioration of the state of the environment found a counterpart in movements promoting alternative ideas in social policy and rejuvenating grassroots democracy. Vihreä Liitto was registered as a political party in 1988.

The Finnish Greens took part in parliamentary elections for the first time in 1983, and two Green MPs were elected. At the moment, Greens hold 11 seats (out of 200) in the Parliament.

In the local elections of 1984 and 1988, Green candidates still ran as independents, gaining council seats mainly in larger cities. The local elections of 1992 were a breakthrough for the Greens, and Vihreä Liitto got an established position at the local level. 55% of the Green councillors are women.

In the European elections, the Greens managed to double their seats in June 1999. Our share of the votes—13,4%—was the best result ever for the Finnish Greens in national elections. In January 2000, Vihreä Liitto had their own candidate in the presidential elections for the first time.

## Finnish Greens in Parliament and in Government

In the 1999 parliamentary elections, Greens increased their number of seats from 9 to 11 in the Finnish Parliament. After the elections the Greens again joined the broadly-based coalition government, which was already in power during the previous legislative period (1995-1999). The seat of the Minister of Environment and Development Co-operation is held by the Green party chair and MP, Satu Hassi. In 2000, Greens have

gained one additional seat when MP Osmo Soininvaara became the Minister of Health and Social Services.

The other parties in the government are the Social Democratic Party, National Coalition Party (conservative), Left Alliance and the Swedish People's Party. The goal of the government is to have a socially sound and geographically undivided Finland and a reduction in the level of unemployment (the rate now being around 9%). The government's position on new nuclear power plants has been left open. Environmental and energy taxes are to be promoted.

## Local Councils

The overall result of the Greens by the local elections in October 2000 was good, 7,7% of the votes (6,3% in 1996). There was growing success in most parts of the country, especially in the regional centres.

In Helsinki, the Greens got a record-breaking result of 23,5% (18,4% in 1996). This means that the Greens became the second biggest political group in the city council after the conservatives (29%) - leaving behind the social democrats with 20,4% of votes.

Grassroot democracy and maintaining local services are important goals for the Greens. The communities must be planned and built in an ecologically sustainable way, e.g. to reduce the need for excessive transport. Other green goals are:

- Regional councils should be elected directly, not by local councils
- Promoting public transport
- Promoting voluntary co-operation between municipalities, e.g. in health care, education, transport

## CURRENT GOVERNMENT:

**National Government:** Social Democratic Party, National Coalition Party, Left Alliance, Swedish People's Party, Green League

**Other Parties Represented in National Parliament:** Finnish Centre Party, Finnish Christian Union, True Finns, Reform Group, Alkio'ist Centre

## ELECTION INFORMATION:

**Next National Elections:** March 2003

### Latest Green Party Election Results:

National Election Year:	1999	Total No. National Votes:	194 846
MPs: 11 and 2 Ministers		% Gained:	7,3
European Elections:	1999	Total No. European Votes:	166 801
MEPs:	2	% Gained:	13,4

## FRANCE: LES VERTS

### The Early Days

During the 1970s, people in France began to become aware of increasing environmental problems, yet without making the link between the problems and the pace of development of rich, industrial countries. A few activists, however, established this link and together with environmentalists, feminists and anti-militarist groups, they started a protest movement opposing the French energy policy that was based on the implementation of nuclear plants. As early as 1974, the third-world agronomist, René Dumont, stood for the presidential elections as an ecologist, contending the unsustainability of our development. He only achieved a small percentage of the vote (1,3 %), but because of the originality of his message and campaign, he made a great and lasting impression.

The antinuclear struggle came to a dramatic climax in July 1977, with a large demonstration in front of the Superphénix surgenerator plant where the heavy police presence resulted in the death of a demonstrator. Such violence brought ecologists and other alternative groups together to contest the legislative elections in 1978 under the slogan "Ecologie 78." Ecologist candidates got an average of 4,4% in the constituencies where they contested. In 1979, ecologists set up a list for the European elections, led by Solange Fernex, who unfortunately failed to reach the 5% election threshold, obtaining 4,4 %. Some ecologists felt the time had come to establish a permanent structure and thus created the "Mouvement d'Ecologie Politique" (MEM). In 1981, MEM, Friends of the Earth and unorganised activists chose Brice Lalonde, president of the Friends of the Earth in Paris, as the ecologist candidate for the presidential elections. He achieved 3,9%.

### The Emergence of Les Verts

After the victory of the left-wing forces in 1981, the ecologist movement became irresolute for a time. MEM (which changed to the "Parti Ecologiste") and the Confédération Ecologiste, created by local groups in 1982, merged in January 1984 creating a new green Party "Les Verts." Brice Lalonde refused to join it, unless they selected him as head of the list for the coming European elections. Les Verts refused and presented a list headed by Didier Anger, which failed to reach the 5% threshold (3,4%) due to the competition of a list, headed by Brice Lalonde and two centrist classical politicians allied with the Socialist Party.

The following years were difficult for Les Verts, a small party overlooked by the media and unknown to the general public. Les Verts presented Antoine Waechter as their candidate for the presidential elections in 1988. He got 3,8%. Due to Bhopal Seveso, Chernobyl and some other ecological catastrophes, the Green lists topped high scores in the local elections in March 1989. In June 1989, Les Verts' list for the European elections headed by Antoine Waechter, gained 10,6% and 9 seats. Marie-Anne Isler-Béguin served as vice president of the European Parliament for over 2 years. The socialists tried to contain this "Green danger" with the help of Brice Lalonde, who they nominated Minister of Environment and encouraged in 1991 to launch a rival party, "Génération Ecologie." Surprisingly, this party (presented as close to the left wing forces) gained 7% at the regional elections in 1992. The two organisations formed an alliance for the 1993 legislative elections. This alliance got 7,8%, but no MP was elected because of the two-tier majority voting

system. This result created disappointment, because the prospects were much better according to the polls.

Right wing forces won the election, and Brice Lalonde immediately tried to work with them. Toward the end of 1993, Les Verts decided to choose a strategy of autonomy, thus opening the door to alliances with the left forces. The European elections in June 1994 were contested in a climate of division. The Les Vert's list, headed by Marie-Anne Isler-Béguin, scored 2,9%—once again suffering from competition by Brice Lalonde, whose list got 2%. Because of the 5% threshold, Les Verts lost all their seats in the European Parliament. Antoine Waechter left them to create a small Mouvement Ecologiste Indépendant, with little success.

### A New and Improved Strategy

Les Verts chose Dominique Voynet as their candidate for Presidential elections in 1995. She was also supported by small ecologist and leftist groups, as well as by former members of Génération Ecologie. Despite her 3,3% score, she presented an attractive profile. In the autumn of 1995, Les Verts launched their "realistic" autonomous strategy and began to prepare political and electoral agreements with the Socialist Party. Severely defeated in 1993, the Socialists needed to renew their image. This they could do through an alliance with Les Verts. Jacques Chirac's decision to hold anticipated legislative elections in May/June 1997 led to the victory of the left forces and Les Verts, who, for the first time, gained 8 members in the National Assembly. Moreover, Dominique Voynet was appointed Minister of Environment and Town and Country Planning.

### The Greens Today

Through this historical survey, one can see how Les Verts became evolved from an alternative party to a government party. They form part of the increasing influence of Green politics in Europe, where Green Ministers can be found in Finland, Belgium, Germany and Slovakia. The Greens are present in most national Parliaments, as well as in the European Parliament. Les Verts now have a responsibility: To be a part of a national majority without losing their political identity and radicalness.

With their minister, Les Verts have already enjoyed some important political successes, such as stopping the Superphénix and Le Carnet nuclear plants and playing an important role at the Kyoto Conference. Les Verts have many representatives in regional and local assemblies

and are participating in some regional governments, such as in the Nord-Pas de Calais. Their new members in Parliament are very active and have strongly contested the Socialist majority's decisions on certain issues like immigration policy or African policy.

Les Verts have recently almost doubled their membership. They have to be present at social and institutional levels in order to change reality, yet without betraying their demands for social and international justice, for sustainable development and for democracy. This presents a new, dangerous and attractive challenge!

## ***CURRENT GOVERNMENT:***

**National Government:** Parti Socialiste, Parti Communiste, Parti Radical-Socialiste, Movement des Citoyens , Les Verts

**Other Parties Represented in National Parliament:** Rassemblement pour la République, Démocratie Libérale, Force Démocrate, Parti Radical, Front National

## ***ELECTION INFORMATION:***

**Next National Elections:** October 2002 - Presidential and Legislative

### **Latest Green Party Election Results:**

National Election Year:	1997	Total No. National Votes:	1 045 214
MPs: 7 and 1 Minister		% Gained:	4,12
European Elections:	1999	Total No. European Votes:	1 700 000
MEPs:	9	% Gained:	9,81

## **GEORGIA: GREEN PARTY OF GEORGIA**

The Green Party of Georgia has become a force to be reckoned within the Georgian political spectre. Since 1989, when the process of democratisation was initiated, the Green Party has played an active role in the political life of the newly independent country of Georgia, eventually becoming a party with its own stance on all vital problems of Georgian society and the turbulent region of Caucasus. Despite political and economic hardship, the Green Party has maintained its authority in society, facilitating the dissemination of Green ideas and thus capturing the attention of a considerable part of the population of Georgia.

The Green Party has a deputy-minister in the existing Cabinet, holding the office of Minister for the Protection of the Environment and Natural Resources.

The focus of political activities of the Georgian Green Party is on the value of social justice and the environment. Despite 70 years of Communist rule, the thorough negligence of environmental problems by the Soviet structures and hence the absence of an environmentalist mentality in Georgia, the Green Party has succeeded in putting environmental issues and problems of growing social injustice at the forefront of discussions both for the government and the public.

The Green Party is denied the possibility of publishing its own periodicals due to financial problems, but nevertheless tries to disseminate its views via the Georgian mass media.

The Green Party succeeded in establishing good links with both governmental and opposition forces, thus making its position and voice more influential. Despite the creation of an alliance with the ruling party of the Citizens' Union of Georgia, the Green Party has never ceased its vigorous insistence on environmental

issues and actively criticises government actions, which seem inconsistent with the principles it advocates.

The Green Party unites some 1200 members on a permanent membership basis, dividing them into regional contingents.

The Green Party of Georgia advocates a peaceful foreign policy and fully supports the "Peaceful Caucasus" initiative set forth by the president, Edward Shevardnadze. The Green Party stands for the peaceful resolution of all ethnic and religious conflicts in Georgia and in the whole region of Caucasus. The Green Party tries to actively communicate and co-operate with environmental and social, political and non-governmental organisations in all neighbouring countries and autonomies, as well as co-operating with similar groups on the larger level of the Black Sea Economic Co-operation and the Common wealth of Independent States.

The crucial point in determining the future role of the Green Party seems to be the upcoming municipal and local elections. The Green Party decided to participate independently in the elections. Local elections are considered to be the threshold for the future democratisation of Georgia, thus the active participation of the Green Party seems relevant in terms of insuring the free and impartial procedure of the election and fair results.

The Georgian Green Party has joined a coalition of opposition parties called the National Center for Freedom and Democracy. The main request of the center is to change the undemocratic electoral law. Additionally, those parties who lost in the last election have appealed to the Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg regarding the falsification of votes in the parliamentary elections.

### ***CURRENT GOVERNMENT:***

**National Government:** Citizens Union of Georgia

**Other Parties Represented in National Parliament:** Green Party of Georgia, Revival Coalition, Revival Party, Socialist Party, Traditionalists Party, Coalition 21st Century

### ***ELECTION INFORMATION:***

**Next National Elections:** November 2003

#### **Latest Green Party Election Results:**

National Election Year:	1999	Total No. National Votes:	14 400*
MPs:	1	% Gained:	0,55
European Elections:	NA	Total No. European Votes:	NA
MEPs:	NA	% Gained:	NA

\* Due to the total falsification of elections, the party does not know the true outcome.

\* Results for 1998 local elections: 17 000 votes, 1% gained, 60 local council members, 2 local council chairmen.

# GERMANY: BÜNDNIS 90/DIE GRÜNEN

## Main Political Issues

The party Bündnis 90/Die Grünen as it exists today was created in May 1993 by associating the former Green Party "Die Grünen" and "Bündnis 90," an alliance of East German civil-rights movements. It has been the most notable success of Bündnis 90/Die Grünen to renew the political profile of the environmentalist party. By emphasising environmental issues, human rights causes, women rights activities, social and economic reform initiatives Bündnis 90/Die Grünen was able to overcome the federal electoral defeat of 1990 and succeeded in 1994 in reelected to the federal parliament as the third party, surpassing the liberals. The mid-nineties the source for sustainability has become a common denominator for many activities of the party. Ending devastation and exploitation of the environment and changing towards an ecologically sound way of production and consumption remains a fundamental goal.

16 consecutive years of conservative government in Germany (1983 – 1998) and of those years in the myth of global growth have failed in the ecological sector. Additionally, growing social injustice and unemployment divided society. Although Germany is a rich country, immense public debt has accrued. Finding integrated solutions for the problems of ecology, economy and social justice has become a crucial task for the German green party. New proposals for an ecological and social tax reform, reform of the income tax, and for social security systems that ensure an adequate basic income for those in need have been put forward by Bündnis 90/Die Grünen.

Bündnis 90/Die Grünen have increasingly put emphasis on civil rights and have pushed for more transparency and participation in the political system. Women's rights and feminism are also among the main concerns of the party. Although equal rights have been established formally in most fields, discrimination remains. Bündnis 90/Die Grünen emphasise the need for a fair sharing of private, family and working life between the genders.

The further development of foreign and security policy includes the strengthening of supra-national organisations like the OSCE and the UN. There is a growing reluctance in Germany towards further European integration. Not only extreme right-wingers favor a new nationalism. Bündnis 90/Die Grünen commit themselves to the process of European integration. The Greens support the EU Enlargement of particularly the efforts to include the states of Central and Eastern Europe. This certainly does not prevent the Greens from criticising democratic and social deficits of the EU.

In the field of international security and peace, Bündnis 90/Die Grünen stand for a policy of non-militaristic solution to conflicts. Instruments of international cooperation, conflict prevention and Organisations like the OSCE and UN should be strengthened. Peacekeeping or peaceenforcement contingents should operate under a clear international mandate.

## Current Situation

Nearly 50.000 people are members of Bündnis 90/Die Grünen. The party is organised at three levels that follow the country's structure. There is the national level with its headquarters in Berlin. Following the federal structure (16 federal states called Bundesländer), there are 16 regional party sections, which have a good measure of autonomy. Finally there is the local level with around 500 county sections and 2.500 community sections. For all levels there are executive committees with 5-12 members. Usually two members are elected as the speakers. In most of the party's sections, MPs are not allowed on executive committees. There is an obligatory minimum quota of 50% for women in all executive committees and on the lists for parliamentary elections. At the national and the federal levels there also exist a lot of working groups on a wide range of political issues. Additionally around 5.000 young people

between 14 and 28 years of age are organised in the Green Youth. Their national office is in Berlin, too.

The electorate of Bündnis 90/Die Grünen comes from various social groups. The best results have been achieved among people between the ages of 25 and 40. The voting percentage for greens is higher among women than among men. Results are generally much better in cities than in rural areas. Green voters tend to have a relatively high level of education and more emphasis to postmaterialistic values.

In the 1998 national elections, 46 MPs were elected to the national parliament (6,69% of vote). This again gives Bündnis 90/Die Grünen the third rank among all German parties. In the new coalition government between the social democratic party and Bündnis 90/Die Grünen the greens placed 3 Ministers: Joschka Fischer, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Vice Prime Minister, Jürgen Trittin, Minister of Environment, and Andrea Fischer, Minister of Health. The red-green coalition encountered numerous problems and hit a bumpy road during the first months in office. German participation in NATO's Kosovo operations proved a very divisive issue. Since the second half of 1999 the government started important reform legislations successfully: a reform of the law of citizenship, reforms of the tax system with reducing the tax rates especially for lower and midrange incomes, and more controversial the introduction of an eco-tax. Also the steady increase of public debt has been stopped by the red-green coalition. At the same time the new coalition realised a 1 Billion DM program for jobless young people, and increased state subsidies for families with children and will go on with it. In 2001 the coalition succeeded their reform of the pensions systems. And after a long conflict and negotiations with the energy enterprises the government decided a plan to run out the use of atomic energy which will be implemented by law in the second half of 2001. On the other hand the greens succeeded new laws and instruments to support the growth of alternative energy systems and of steps to reduce the energy consumptions.

In the European elections in June 1999, 7 MEPs were elected to the European Parliament (6,4%). Since autumn of 1999 Michaela Schreyer, as Commissioner for Budget, is the first green member of the European Commission in Brussels. In several state elections in 1999 Bündnis 90/Die Grünen lost votes and one red-green state coalition (in Hessen) was defeated. Bündnis 90/Die Grünen are still in coalitions with the social democratic party in the federal states of Nordrhein-Westfalen, Schleswig-Holstein, and Hamburg.

At the National Congress in Muenster in June 2000 a new party council was elected. Renate Künast, former spokeswoman of the green faction of the states parliament of Berlin, and Fritz Kuhn, former spokesman of the green parliamentarian faction in Baden-Württemberg, were elected as the two spokespersons of the German Green Party. Reinhard Bütikofer as General Secretary and Dietmar Strehl as financial director were reelected. Last but not least Undine Kurth, former spokeswoman of the Greens in Sachsen-Anhalt, and Niombo Lomba, a student of political sciences from Augsburg/Munich, are further new members of the council with special focuses on eastern Germany and on education, sciences and new media. During the BSE-crisis, in February 2001 Andrea Fischer resigned as minister of health and Renate Künast became the new green minister of consumers protection and agriculture and started initiatives for a more social-ecological development of the agricultural system. In March 2001 the party elected Claudia Roth, former member of the European Parliament and of the German Parliament, as the new spokeswoman beside Fritz Kuhn.

The party has also started a debate about its new basic program for the next two decades. Several discussion forums and congresses are planned until the party congress in November 2001. Additionally a special internet homepage for the program debate with a public forum has started in June ([www.grundsatzdebatte.de](http://www.grundsatzdebatte.de)).

***CURRENT GOVERNMENT:***

National Government: SPD, BÜNDNIS 90/DIE GRÜNEN

Other Parties Represented in National Parliament: CDU, FDP, PDS

***ELECTION INFORMATION:***

Next National Elections: 2002

**Latest Green Party Election Results:**

National Election Year:	1998	Total No. National Votes:	3 300 133
MPs: 46 ; 3 Ministers, 2 Ministers of State and 5 Parliamentary Ministers of State			
% Gained:	6,69		
European Elections:	1999	Total No. European Votes:	27 468 932
MEPs:	5	% Gained:	6,4

## GREECE : PRASSINI POLITIKI

Green Politics today is a unique political organisation that is the voice of the Greek ecological movement on a national level. It's a new party. It began as an initiative of some ex-members of "Ecologists Alternative Federation" and members of "Politiki Oikologia," along with individuals who had broken ties with left parties and other groups. These people agreed to re-establish the autonomous voice and action of the "Greek Green Movement." In November 1998, we signed the first statutes, and in December 1999, our first congress took place.

In a few words, we will try to explain why we have started this new organisation, despite the fact that the Greek Ecological Movement has been in existence for twenty years and has enjoyed important successes, such as having a twice elected member in the National Parliament. Today, it almost seems we are starting from the beginning.

Until 1987, our movement had a speedy development. Dozens of active groups rallied citizens either for local issues or to resolve concrete problems. After the Chernobyl accident, the necessity to nationally coordinate and politically develop the local groups became obvious. With the initiative of the "Ecological Movement of Salonika," a promising dialogue commenced—a dialogue that aimed to create a federation of Green groups. But this dialogue was shortly interrupted because a few members from some of the groups decided to participate in the 1989 European elections, against the collective opinion of the ecological groups. Thus, "Ecologists Alternatives" was established, and through exploiting the good will of the Ecological Groups, they gained 1,3% of the votes.

This success resulted in the abrupt participation of dozens of people in the decision making for small groups, motivated more by personal ambitions than by ecological consciousness. The rash foundation of the "Ecologists Alternatives Federation" and the election of a member in the Parliament from a party without statutes, without institutive principles and without positions on basic issues, resulted in the party's early self-disintegration during its institutive congress. The failure was double-handed for the following reasons:

- The vast majority of people who had created the ecological movement during the 1980s backed off because they were disappointed in the presence of people who had nothing to do with the ecological movement.
- The disintegration and the conflicts among the "ecologists", revealed by the media, also vastly disappointed Greek

society, which was fed up with the political and economical scandals of that period.

During the European Elections of 1994, "Politiki Oikologia" was founded. This attempt proved to be a fiasco since the party only gained 0,3% of the votes and because its instigators were accused of identifying their personal ambitions with the perspectives of the Green movement. A fraction from the former organisation tried to collaborate with the leftist party "Synaspismos." They were unsuccessful.

"Green Politics" may be a small party, but it is comprised of people who have continuously fought for the ecological movement since the 1980s. We have a good working relationship with all local ecological movements, such as the "Ecological Movement of Salonika," who we are trying to convince to participate in our effort to rebuild national and autonomous action. One notable success was the meeting in Athens in May 1999 during the war in Kosovo. At this meeting, Greek, Bulgarian, Albanian, Serbian, Turkish and Cypriot ecologists unanimously voted for a mutual declaration concerning stability in the Balkans and the creation of the Balkan Net.

We need time and consistent action to prove to the Greek society and all ecologically-conscious citizens that:

- The existence of a national autonomous voice of the Green movement is a necessity.
- The failures of the past were hard lessons to learn, but they do not undermine our visions today.
- We, the people that created Green Politics, did not have the ambition to become leaders of another party that would "cash in" on what dignity remained from the ecological movement. We aspire to rebuild a multi-dimensional movement with an institutional and activist voice that will cohere and promote the local action of every conscious citizen.

Therefore, we have decided not to cooperate with parties that participate in the Parliament. Parties like "Synaspismos" remember their ecological dimension just before the elections and aim at the augmentation of the election basis. In local societies, these parties are not well estimated. Furthermore, cooperating with them to create a new political voice may lead to identification rather than collaboration among distinct political entities.

### CURRENT GOVERNMENT:

National Government: PASOK (Socialists)

Other Parties Represented in National Parliament: ΝΔ (Conservatives), ΚΚΕ (Communists), ΔΗΚΚΙ (Popular Socialists), ΣΥΝΑΣΠΙΣΜΟΣ (Synaspismos/Left)

### ELECTION INFORMATION:

Next National Elections: 2005

Latest Green Party Election Results:

National Election Year:	2000	Total No. National Votes:	--
MPs:	--	% Gained:	--
European Elections:	1999	Total No. European Votes:	
MEPs:	0	% Gained:	

# HUNGARY : ZÖLD DEMOKRATÁK

The roots of the green movement goes back to the beginning of the '80-s. The first attempt to establish an NGO goes back to 1984, when the Danube Circle (Duna Kör) tried to disseminate the secreted information on a plan for damming the Danube in Czechoslovakia and in Hungary. (Gabcikovo-Nagymaros) The Danube Circle organised several protests since 1986, received significant prizes, like the Right Livelihood Prize (the Alternative Nobel Prize) and had relevant importance during the changes. The key figures of the circle, than decided, to re-establish the civil society, and to support the parties with a chance to take over the one-party (soft) dictatorship.

During the last mounts before the first free election, (1990) a The Hungarian Green Party (HGP)(Magyarországi Zöld Párt (MZP)) has been founded, but without a chance to show their existence. The party went through several changes during the years, lost most of it's members and turned up again in 1993, one year before the elections with an extreme rightist programme. Their favourite slogan was, "Plant Hungarian seed into Hungarian women".

As an answer to this, and to show the world that the Greens in Hungary also exist with a similar say, the Green Alternity (GA) (Zöld Alternatíva (ZA)) has been founded also in 1993. The founders, from various NGO-s like the Danube Circle and the Hungarian Nature Protectors Association had to face several difficulties. The discredited name by HGP, the fact that rooms, telecommunication equipments, and funds were only given to the parties which were founded before 1990, and because of the little time left before the election. The party launched 76 candidates for the 176 voting districts, but only 7 was able to collect the needed 750 valid signature to be a real candidate in the 1994 elections. In the second term they went into a coalition with the Agrarian Alliance (Agrárszövetség) but the final result (2,7%) stayed under the 5% threshold. The week result resulted cracks in the party, which had no chance to wake up during the next coming years. A seed of environmentalists and peace activists stayed together, but they acted like an NGO. This was shown also during the next election, (1998) where together with other NGO-s, GA went into a coalition called: Union Together for Hungary (Együtt Magyarországotért Unió) The result was even worse, just over 0.6%. The GA congress after the election decided, not to go ever to coalition with other parties, because the green name alone has a bigger value for the peoples than any unknown new name. Some proof of this was shown during the local elections half a year later, resulting one mayor and 27 local councillors.

## CURRENT GOVERNMENT:

**National Government:** Coalition of Young Democrats FIDESZ - MPP and Independent Party of Small Property Owners FKGP

**Other Parties Represented in National Parliament:** Alliance of Free Democrats SZDSZ, Hungarian Party of Truth and Justice MIÉP, Hungarian Socialist Party MSZP

## ELECTION INFORMATION:

**Next National Elections:** 2002

### Latest Green Party Election Results:

National Election Year:	1998	Total No. National Votes:	2 500
MPs:	0	% Gained:	0,62
European Elections:	NA / EUA*	Total No. European Votes:	NA / EUA
MEPs:	NA / EUA	% Gained:	NA / EUA

\* EUA = European Union Applicant Country

During the 1998 elections the Danube as an environmental topic was a central issue, just like during the years of the changes. Protests were organised against the policy of the socialist government, wanting to build dams on the river. After the first big demonstration at the 28-th of February 1998, 7%of the opinion poles went from the Socialist Party to FIDESZ, which was able to keep the poles. The Greens (ZD) were not able to ride the waves even in those moments, when a great part of the actual events were organised by their members.

A change came during the summer of the year 2000, when members of the Social Democracy 2000 Foundation and some members of the Social Democratic Youth.had joined the party, Than the name of the party was also changed from Green Alternity to Green Democrats (GD) (Zöld Demokraták(ZD)). Party building is an ongoing process since than. The biggest step is taking place just during these days when members of the Agrarian Alliance, including their well known leader Nagy Tamás joined GD. This process is taking place in a moment, when the populist governing agrarian party, after several corruption scandals is losing heavily weight. The Independent Smallholders Party had 16% in the elections, but now they are only between one and two percent.

In Hungary politics and politicians has little trust. During elections 40% does not goes to the poles, and during the last by-election only 28% had turned up. Than 94% of the votes went to the two big parties, to FIDESZ (Changing from liberal to christian democrat before the 1998 election) and to the Socialist Party. (The winner of the Dabas by election was FIDESZ with almost 52%, the Socialists had 39% and the Greens 1,1%. This means that voting on anybody else but the two big party meant a lost vote. The only exception is when parties declare that they are willing to go on coalition. This time the GD has a good chance to go on to a coalition with the socialist party. This has been proved during the last talks between the leaders of the two parties. The socialists (leading the national opinion poles) are also willing to make a common list, accepting the full independence of the greens. If this will take place, than GD does not has to pass the 5% threshold. This was the case during the last election with the Hungarian Democratic Forum (MDF). They are on government now with 2.1% of the votes. This process of making a coalition can be dangerous for a small party, but the Socialist party's poles are always between 30 and 40 %. It also must be mentioned, that they are open to discuss all green items, and to find a common solution also in the field of the Danubian policy, an issue which is in the centre of the interest of the Hungarian voters.

## IRELAND: COMHAONTAS GLAS

### The Emerging Greens

The emergence of Green politics in Ireland first came in the form of social movements protesting against mining, the chemical industry and most significantly against nuclear power. The Green Party did not emerge directly from these movements but rather was initiated by Christopher Fettes, a Dublin teacher. Active in the Vegetarian Society, the Esperanto movement and Friends of the Earth, Fettes became increasingly convinced of the need for a political party that would address Green issues. To achieve this he issued invitations to a meeting to form a Green Party, which was held on 3 December 1981 in the Central Hotel, Dublin. The invitation included a list of proposed aims, including the following:

- "a steady state economy to replace unlimited economic growth"
- "a non-exploitive but more fruitful relationship with the natural environment"
- "the provision of a basic income to all, and a decentralised and economically self-sufficient way of life, giving a maximum freedom to individuals and a minimum of power to central government"

Of the 80 people who attended, a majority was in favour of creating a political party, and thus the Ecology Party of Ireland (E.P.I.) was born. A steering committee of 12 was elected and membership was approximately 40 for the first few months. The initial structure of the E.P.I. was conventional, being based on branches like the other Irish political parties. This traditional organisation was in part put forward with political registration in mind. While the E.P.I. was too young for the unexpected general election of February 1982 the steering committee issued some leaflets announcing the party's existence and promising the voters the opportunity of being able to support ecology candidates at the next election. In March the Party held its first convention at the Glencree Reconciliation Centre in Wicklow and it was here that the seven principles of the party were agreed by consensus. These principles still serve the Green Party to the present and are:

- The impact of society on the environment should not be ecologically disruptive.
- Conservation of resources is vital to a sustainable society.
- All political, social and economic decisions should be taken at the lowest effective level.
- Society should be guided by self-reliance and co-operation at all levels.
- As caretakers of the Earth, we have the responsibility to pass it on in a fit and healthy state.
- The need for world peace overrides national and commercial interests.
- The poverty of two thirds of the world's family demands a redistribution of the world's resources.

The E.P.I found itself facing a general election in November 1982, and having already given the commitment mentioned above to contest the next election, the party decided to put up seven candidates. The candidates polled 0,2% of the national vote and an average of 1,3% in the constituencies contested.

### Changes

1983 saw the E.P.I. change its name its name to the Green Alliance/Comhaontas Glas, and it was under this title that Christopher Fettes contested the 1984 European election, standing in Dublin. He managed to poll 1,9% of the vote (0,3% nationally). Along with the new name came organisational change. The old structure of the E.P.I. did not correspond to green notions of grassroots democracy, and it was dropped in favour of an alliance of autonomous groups. With some modifications, this is still the basic structure of the party.

The following years' local elections gave the party its first electoral success when Marcus Counihan was elected to Killarney Urban District Council. Overall the Greens won 0,6% of the national vote. This was for 34 candidates, 28 of whom stood in Dublin. Then in 1986, the party experienced a minor split over whether it should be a campaigning movement or concentrate its energies on the electoral process. A few favoured the former and left the party while the remaining majority concentrated on electoral politics. The next electoral test was the 1987 general election where the Party scored 0,4% of the national vote and, although down on their 1985 vote the result was achieved with only 9 candidates.

In 1987 the Party changed its name to the Green Party/Comhaontas Glas to help end public confusion over whether it was a political organisation or not. The new name came just in time for the electoral breakthrough of 1989, when Roger Garland became the Party's first T.D., representing Dublin South. In all the Green Party contested 11 constituencies in the June 1989 general election, 10 in Dublin plus Kildare. The Party also contested the Dublin and Leinster constituencies in the European election held the same day. In the Munster constituencies, the Greens supported the People First candidate, Joe Noonan.

### Political Success

The success of Roger Garland was built on with the election of 13 councillors in the June 1991 Local Elections. Four seats were won on Dublin Corporation, six on Dublin Co. Council and one each on Cork Corporation, Wicklow and Kildare Co. Councils. On Dublin Corporation the Greens formed a governing coalition, the Civic Alliance, to run the capital city. Things however did not run entirely smoothly as Councillor Richard Greene resigned from the party early in 1992. An unexpected general election followed in November 1992. Roger Garland lost his Dublin South seat, but this was balanced by the election of Trevor Sargent for Dublin North.

In June 1994 the Party pulled off a major achievement with the election of two MEPs (out of 15) to the European Parliament. Patricia McKenna topped the poll in Dublin with 14,5% of the first preference vote, and Nuala Ahern got 11,8% in Leinster, enough to secure the final seat. Overall the party nationally received 7,9%, putting it in fourth place behind Fianna Fáil, Fine Gael and the Labour Party. The party also made important gains in the Urban District Council elections held the same day. And that same month, the Dublin City Council elected Cllr. John Gormley as the first Green Lord Mayor of Dublin.

These successes continued with the Cork bye-elections in October 1994, where Cllr. Dan Boyle, although failing to gain a seat, received 16% of the poll in Cork South Central. In May 1997 John Gormley joined Trevor Sargent in the Dáil where he was elected for Dublin South East after enduring a week-long marathon count to defeat Michael McDowell of the PDs by twenty-seven votes.

An even greater achievement was recorded in the 1999 European Elections when Patricia McKenna and Nuala Ahern successfully defended their European Parliament seats. Patricia McKenna took the third seat in Dublin with 12,7% and Nuala Ahern did even better taking the second seat in Leinster with 13,78%. The 1999 Local Election Results were a mixed bag. Although the Party's vote, at 2,4% nationally, remained the same as 1991, the figures failed to produce the seats expected. There were some notable successes though. Mary White, with an excellent 23%, topped the poll ahead of Fianna Fail in Borris, Carlow as did Eamon Ryan in Rathmines, Dublin and Paul Gogarty in Lucan, County Dublin.

***CURRENT GOVERNMENT:***

National Government: Fianna Fail and Progressive Democrats

Other Parties Represented in National Parliament: Fire Gael, Labour, Independents, Green Party, Democratic Left, Sinn Fein

***ELECTION INFORMATION:***

Next National Elections: 2001 .

**Latest Green Party Election Results:**

National Election Year:	1997	Total No. National Votes:	49 323
MPs:	2	% Gained:	2,76
European Elections:	1999	Total No. European Votes:	--
MEPs:	2	% Gained:	--

# ITALY: FEDERAZIONE DEI VERDI

Various Green groups have contested local elections in Italy since the early 1980s. The first Greens entered the Italian Parliament and Senate in 1987, when the non-party list of the ecological movement—*Lista Verdi*—got 13 MPs and two senators.

In 1992, the Greens got 16 MPs and two Senators, but due to widespread corruption scandals of the ruling Christian Democrat Party, the Parliament and Senate were soon dissolved. The Greens lost ground in the March 1994 general election, along with the left-wing Progressive Pact, who six months earlier had been so successful in getting the Green MP *Francesco Rutelli* elected Mayor of Rome. The Greens got 11 seats in the 630-member Parliament and six in the 315-member Senate.

*Lista Verdi* contested the European election for the first time in 1989. The maverick Italian "Partito radicale" contested in three lists, one of which was made together with other well-known environmentalists and was confusingly called "Verdi Arcobaleno" (The Rainbow Greens). *Lista Verdi* and *Arcobaleno* got 3 and 2 MEPs respectively, all of whom joined the Green Group in the European Parliament as the two parties merged to become "Federazione dei Verdi" in 1990.

Though *Federazione dei Verdi* adopted a more traditional party structure in 1992, it stood as a confederation of regional groups

until 1996 when it became a real party. The former EC Commissioner and Italian Minister of Environment, Mr. Carlo Ripa di Meana, joined the Greens and became the spokesperson of *Federazione dei Verdi* in 1993. In 1995 he was again elected spokesperson of the Party until 1996 when Luigi Manconi, a well-known sociologist member of the Senate, became the new spokesperson of the Italian Greens. His mandate expired in the spring of 1998.

Due to developments in the Italian parliament in autumn 1998, the Greens had 2 Ministers in the Italian government: Edo Ronchi as Environment Minister and Laura Balbo as Minister for Equal Opportunities, followed by Minister Gianni Francesco Mattioli and Alfonso Pecoraro Scanio.

Due to the bad results in the European elections of June 1999, the Italian Greens decided to rebuild the party, starting from their organisation and internal rules and trying to get new and more adequate instruments of political analysis and action. At the end of July the leadership of the party was entrusted to Grazia Francescato, well known leader of WWF-Italy; Grazia was unanimously confirmed President of the party at the Chianciano Congress in January 2000.

The Italian Greens are at the moment debating on their future structures.

## CURRENT GOVERNMENT:

National Government: Forza Italia, Lega Nord, Alleanza Nazionale, CCD, (Center Right)

Other Parties Represented in National Parliament: House of Liberties (Right), LEGA-NORD, Olive Tree Coalition (Centre Left), Refounded Communists/Democrazia Europea

## ELECTION INFORMATION:

Next National Elections: 2006

### Latest Green Party Election Results:

National Election Year:	2001	Total No. National Votes:	911 735
MPs:	8 - Senators : 9	% Gained:	2,2
European Elections:	1999	Total No. European Votes:	550 000
MEPs:	2	% Gained:	1,8

# LUXEMBOURG : DÉI GRÉNG

On the 23rd June 1998, members and supporters of DIE GRENG looked back on 15 years of a not-so-common history of political ecology in Luxembourg. It took a complete decade to bring together the two competing Green parties in 1995 (the result of a split in 1985).

The merger was successful. DIE GRENG have since established themselves as the 4th political force in Luxembourg. With nearly 11% of the votes and 5 seats (out of a total 60) in the national parliament, DIE GRENG are able to influence the national political debate. Many observers qualify DIE GRENG as the most active and innovative opposition party in Luxembourg. DIE GRENG are also very active on the local level, being represented in most of city councils in the "larger" municipalities. In addition to this, since we are also taking part in several local coalitions, mayors as well as vice-mayors come out of our ranks.

Nevertheless, substantial elements of our political priorities are still not implemented. Issues such as sustainable development, ecological tax reform, reform of the social security system and pension funds, civil rights, women's rights, integration and participation of foreigners (nearly 40% in Luxembourg)—All of these issues are often debated, but concrete and measurable results are still missing.

1999 was a difficult election year for DÉI GRÉNG. The national elections were dominated by debates on pension funds, which is not an issue where the Greens can succeed easily in imposing their views. In addition, a former MEP of DÉI GRÉNG presented a "green" list against us. Despite these difficult conditions and despite the loss of a few votes, we managed to lose no seats and succeeded in gaining back our seat in the EP, as well as our parliamentary group (5 out of 60) in Luxembourg. This is a status quo many consider a success considering the difficult situation under which these elections took place for us.

## **CURRENT GOVERNMENT:**

**National Government:** *Since 13/6/99, Coalition between CSV (Christian Democrats) and DP (Liberals)*

**Other Parties Represented in National Parliament (60 seats):** CSV (21 seats), DP (13 seats), LSAP (Socialists; 13 seats), ADR (Poujadist Party; 7 seats), DÉI GRÉNG (5 seats), déi Lénk (Left alliance of Communists and former Communists; 1 seat)

## **ELECTION INFORMATION:**

**Next National Elections:** June 2004

### **Latest Green Party Election:**

National Elections:	June 1999	Total No. Votes:	266 154 ( <i>out of 2 927 195</i> )
MPs:	5	% Gained:	9,09
European Elections:	June 1999	Total No. Votes:	108 514 ( <i>out of 1 013 783</i> )
MEPs:	1	% Gained:	10,70

# **MALTA : ALTERNATTIVA DEMOKRATIKA**

Alternattiva Demokratika emerged in the heated, even violent partisan two-party system of the Maltese islands in the late 1980s. Be the governing party either Labour or Nationalist (by a swing of a mere hundred votes), it would reign supreme in all spheres of political, economic and even private life.

Malta's virtual party oligopoly effectively neuters any attempt by a third party to establish itself. Since 1962, the two parties have won 100% of the seats in Parliament. Understandably, the Maltese Greens have not scored big electoral successes (1.7% in the general elections of 1992; 1,5% in 1996; and 1,21 in 1998).

The last two elections (1996 and 1998) have witnessed enormous swings (by Maltese standards) from one big party to the other. As many as 10 000 voters are shifting their vote. This amounts to about 4% of the voters and effectively brings about a change in government. Unfortunately, because of the very difficult electoral system, Alternattiva is not benefiting at all from these massive swings—People prefer shifting their vote by 180 degrees from the Labour Party to the Christian Democrats, and vice versa, rather than going half way and trying us!

All this is leading AD to the conclusion that unless there is a change in the electoral system, we will never make it. We should therefore concentrate on the following three areas in the near future:

1. Try and put pressure to change the electoral system.

2. Make use of the (abrogative) referendum tool in order to be politically relevant and effective

3. With Malta being an EU applicant country, try and work as closely as possible with our Green partners in EU national governments and with the GGEP since any result obtained at European level through the efforts of the Greens would have enormous relevance at national level in Malta.

In the Local Council Elections of 1994, Alternattiva Demokratika obtained 3,1% of the votes, and in 1997 it was 1,9%.

During the party's annual general meeting held in November 1999, Alternattiva Demokratika decided to continue its political work concentrating on the environment, health and social issues. Alternattiva Demokratika is currently in the process of updating its policies in these spheres and as regards Malta's adhesion to the European Union. Alternattiva Demokratika is also reassessing its public relations strategy to get its message across to a wider section of the Maltese population. The main issues that Alternattiva Demokratika is striving and pushing for are: the protection of the environment, the safeguarding of the social dimension, and raising the level of health and safety standards at the place of work as well as institutional reforms.

The Malta Greens are now very active with regards to the referendum on EU accession, which should take place in 2003

## ***CURRENT GOVERNMENT:***

National Government: Nationalist Party (Christian Democrats)

Other Parties Represented in National Parliament: Malta Labour Party

## ***ELECTION INFORMATION:***

Next National Elections: 2003

### **Latest Green Party Election Results:**

National Election Year:	1998	Total No. National Votes:	3 202
MPs:	0	% Gained:	1,21
European Elections:	NA / EUA*	Total No. European Votes:	NA / EUA
MEPs:	NA / EUA	% Gained:	NA / EUA

\* EUA = European Union Applicant Country

# NETHERLANDS : DE GROENEN

De Groenen is one of the lesser-known member parties of the Federation. The party was formed in 1983 as a federation of new Green regional parties, underlining a "bottom-up" approach to politics, which is seen as essential to the new political movement. It was the first Green party in the Netherlands, preceding the formation of GroenLinks (Green left), who are also members of the EFGP, by almost 6 years. De Groenen didn't take part in the merger of CPN (Communists), PSP (pacifists), PPR and EVP (small Christian left parties) that created GroenLinks because they felt that the new party was going to more or less juxtapose Green and red goals, while Green goals should always prevail. GroenLinks was much bigger than De Groenen from the outset and has overshadowed them ever since.

The Netherlands has a system of proportional representation with a threshold of one seat. The national parliament has two chambers. The Second Chamber (the most important, with full-time politicians and right of amendment) has 150 seats and has a threshold of 0,67%. GroenLinks holds 11 seats. The next national elections will be held in May 2002. The First Chamber, (with part-time politicians and no right of amendment) holds 75 seats and has a threshold of 1,33%. The next elections will be held in May 2003. De Groenen holds 1 seat. GroenLinks has 8 seats. There are 12 regional parliaments where De Groenen holds 2 seats (North-Holland and Gelderland). In addition to this, there are hundreds of local parliaments. De Groenen holds 13 seats in various parts of the country.

For many years De Groenen only held a few seats on the local and provincial level. In 1994 this number increased slightly (to 12 seats), but the party only gained 0,15% in the national elections. In the European elections, De Groenen achieved 2,4%, but this was not sufficient to gain a seat. The regional elections in 1995 yielded 2 seats, 1 more than previously. In 1998, 6 more municipal seats were gained, yet in the national elections De Groenen hardly fared any better than before, achieving 0,2%.

In 1995, the party found itself faced with two options for the Dutch Senate elections: Cooperation with GroenLinks, or working with several other, regional parties. Judging that GroenLinks would secure 4 seats in the Senate regardless of support offered by De Groenen, the party opted for an experimental approach, working with 6 regional parties. These

parties held many common views with De Groenen—bottom-up politics and many Green elements in their programmes. Although not primarily interested in national politics, the regional parties were decidedly interested in links to Senate politics, which would give them an edge in regional debates. For De Groenen, the co-operation created a wider political base, without compromising national policies. As a result, Marten Bierman, one of the party founders, was elected to the Senate for De Groenen.

The result of the latest national elections in May 1998 was very disappointing for De Groenen: No seat and only some 2500 more votes than in 1994, in spite of a much better and more successful (in terms of publicity generated) campaign. Intense debate followed on how to react to the situation. A written inquiry among members and close sympathisers revealed that hardly anyone wanted to simply dissolve the party and only about a quarter of those who responded were in favour of collectively joining GroenLinks. The remaining two options were:

- I. To split up the party into several local ones loosely bound together in a federation at the national level.
- II. To maintain the status of an independent national party.

A congress held in Utrecht on 12 December 1998 voted in favour of Option II. However, this did not mean that De Groenen went on just like before. Option II included the resolution to concentrate efforts on getting more members, increasing the number of active local branches and gaining seats on municipal councils. Furthermore, De Groenen emphasised the distinctions between them and GroenLinks while maintaining a friendly relationship with the party. Finally, De Groenen intended to make its organisation more professional. The goal was to build a much better starting-point for entering the national elections again, which would probably not happen until the polls indicated they could secure at least one seat in the national parliament.

At the following congress in June 1999, the strategy changed in the direction of Option I. Today, De Groenen searches for cooperation with independent local green parties. The national elections no longer have priority—Rather, the national level is merely supporting the local, independent branches. We want to strengthen independent green parties for the next local elections in March 2002.

## CURRENT GOVERNMENT :

National Government: PvdA (Labour, Social-Democrats), VVD (Liberal, Conservative), D66 (Liberal, Centre)

Other Parties Represented in National Parliament: CDA, GroenLinks, SP (Socialist), Christenunie, SGP (last two-strict Christian)

## ELECTION INFORMATION :

Next National Elections: May 2002

Latest Green Party Election Results:

National Election Year:	1998	Total No. National Votes:	16 585
MPs:	0	% Gained:	0,2
European Elections:	1994	Total No. European Votes:	96 801
MEPs:	0	% Gained:	2,4

## **NETHERLANDS: GROEN LINKS**

GroenLinks (The Green Left) was officially founded in November 1990, but has been in existence since 1989. It was formed as a result of a merger of 4 small leftist parties: PRP (Radical Political Party), PSP (Pacifist-Socialist Party), CPN (Communist Party of the Netherlands) and EVP (Evangelical People's Party).

The co-operation framework of GroenLinks was established prior to the national elections in 1989, in which the parties took part with a common programme and a common list of candidates. Despite high expectations, no more than 6 seats were obtained and it was rumoured that the "GroenLinks Experiment" had failed.

The municipal elections of March 1990 were a lot more successful, with GroenLinks having achieved 300 councillor seats in several municipalities. In 1990, the 4 predecessor parties dissolved and GroenLinks was officially launched. In the provincial elections in 1991, the party won 5,2% and 4 seats in the Senate. In 1992, the first GroenLinks mayor was elected in Oostzaan, Amsterdam.

Even though the polls were favourable, the following parliamentary elections were disappointing. Instead of expected growth, the party lost a seat. The same occurred in the European elections in 1994, mainly say Groenlinks, due to the competition waged by the candidate selected by De Groenen to head their list.

As the name suggests, GroenLinks is based on both Green and left philosophies. Green, because the party stands for a "liveable environment and the recovery of the ecological balance," and left because the party calls for "protection of the position of the least paid through a drastic levelling of income." GroenLinks thereby takes a stand against the traditional model of economic growth and chooses instead selective state intervention and far-reaching decentralisation of government tasks. In addition to this, the party also calls for more concentrated attention on the needs of immigrants in Dutch society. It takes an active stance against the extreme right.

Today, GroenLinks is one of the few parties in the Netherlands that is increasing its membership. Presently, we have 14 000 members, with an average of 100 people joining each month (mostly people under 35). The highest

decision-making body of GroenLinks is the party Congress, which is composed of representatives from the local branches who have the right to vote. The party board of 15 members and the MPs are all monitored by the Congress. Candidates for European and national parliaments, as well as the Senate, are elected by the Congress, which also sets the political course of GroenLinks and decides upon the national and European election programme.

The municipal and parliamentary elections in 1998 brought about radical changes in the position of GroenLinks on the local and national level. GroenLinks achieved 7,3% in the national elections and won a total of 11 seats. This success has been attributed, to a great extent, to the excellent performance of GroenLinks/3D party leader Paul Rosenmoeller.

The party/3D's strategy over the past few years has been focussed on the criticism of the neo-liberal policies of the "purple" coalition government (PvdA, VVD, D66), combined with proposals for realistic alternatives. This strategy has provided GroenLinks with the high ratings they enjoy.

These results of the recent elections were the biggest success in the history of GroenLinks. The outcome also shows that the Dutch political arena is subject to an increasing level of polarisation. The indifference to ecological and social issues by the ruling parties translates directly to the popularity of GroenLinks.

The war against Serbia had a great impact upon GroenLinks. Before the war, the parliamentary fraction was not in favour of armed intervention. When the government decided to support the NATO bombings, the majority of the fraction adhered to parliament, which approved the government's decision (with the exception of the small Socialist party). This greatly upset a portion of the party's membership. After vivid discussions, the party eventually aligned with the fraction. The need was felt to redefine a paragraph in the party's programme regarding peace and security.

The congresses of March 2000 and March 2001 adopted new statements about conflict prevention, and the party's programme for the 2002 elections is revised according to this.

### **CURRENT GOVERNMENT:**

National Government: PvdA (Labour, Social-Democrats), VVD (Liberal, Conservative), D66 (Liberal, Centre)  
Other parties Represented in National Parliament: CDA, Groenlinks, SGP, GPV, RPF, SP

### **ELECTION INFORMATION:**

Next National Elections: March 2002  
Latest Green Party Election Results:

National Election Year:	1998	Total No. National Votes:	625 170
MPs:	11*	% Gained:	7,2
European Elections:	1999	Total No. European Votes:	419 869
MEPs:	4	% Gained:	11,85

\*Plus 8 senators

## **NORWAY: MILJØPARTIET DE GRØNNE**

The Norwegian Green Party, "Miljøpartiet de Grønne," is a small party with some pockets of local fortitude, but no presence in national parliament. Although environmental consciousness is fairly well developed in Norway, several other parties in our multi-party system have been developing environmental policies for many years.

Environmental election lists were organised in many places in Norway in the '70s and '80s, some taking names like "Green Party" or "Green List." At the local elections in 1987, a group of academics presented several lists under the name of "the Greens" and gained 1 seat in the district council of Akershus, near Oslo, while another group also called "the Greens" won 4 seats in the town of Halden.

Encouraged by these moderate successes, a number of local environmental voter-alliances got in contact with each other. After innumerable meetings, a nationwide party was formed in the autumn of 1988. The new party held its first official congress in the spring 1989. The meeting was held in an old school building in the countryside, far from the political centres. The fifty-odd delegates, mostly young people, slept on the floor, adopted a 50-page political programme and announced their intention of presenting lists in all constituencies for the upcoming elections. The voters did not seem very interested, however. At the general elections, just 0,5% of the voters used the Green lists. No Greens entered parliament, the environmental votes going instead to the SV (Socialist Left).

In the world of environmental organisations, the new party was considered a competitor and not an ally. Internal splits also became apparent—some personal, some political and some both.

In the local elections in 1991, the Greens entered a number of local councils, mainly in medium-sized cities and towns, but the parliamentary elections in 1993 were downright depressing. Even prominent party members did not vote for the Greens, but for SP (the agrarian Centre Party) or the SV, in order to strengthen the number of anti-EU seats in parliament. Votes for the Green Party slumped to 0,1%!

During the local elections in 1995, things picked up a bit. The Greens kept their seats and even gained a couple of new seats in places like Tromsø, but there was no break-through in Oslo, which is where political news is made.

Eight years on, the Norwegian Green Party has established itself in a number of local communities, but made no impact on the national political scene. Membership has been constant at about 400. Groups have mostly appeared when some local environmental issue has been ignored by the other parties. For instance, in Trondheim, where the main party office was located (today it's in Oslo), the Socialist Left lost their environmental credibility after voting in the city council to close down the local tram lines.

We could keep the same number of seats at local parliaments as a result of the local elections in 1999, and we gained a seat at one county parliament.

Regarding the general elections in September 1997, Miljøpartiet are unfortunately still not represented in parliament and only achieved a slightly better result than in the elections in 1993. We hope to get better results at the next general elections in September 2001.

### **CURRENT GOVERNMENT:**

**National Government:** Venstre (Social Liberalists), Senterpartiet (Anti-E, rural orientated Central Democrats), Kristelig Folkeparti (Christian Democrats)

**Other Parties Represented in National Parliament:** Sosialistisk Venstreparti (Left-Wing Socialists), Arbeiderpartiet (Social Democrats), Høyre (Conservatives), Kystpartiet (Pro-whaling rural party with voters mainly from the westcoast of Norway)

### **ELECTION INFORMATION:**

**Next National Elections:** September 2001

#### **Latest Green Party Election Results:**

National Election Year:	1997	Total No. National Votes:	6 000
MPs:	0	% Gained:	0,2
European Elections:	NA	Total No. European Votes:	NA
MEPs:	NA	% Gained:	NA

## **PORTUGAL: OS VERDES**

The Portuguese Green party, Partido Ecologista-Os Verdes, was founded in 1982. Initially called Movimento Ecologista Português- Partido Os Verdes, the movement was established due to a group of citizen's desire to promote a pro-active ecological presence in Portuguese society.

Determined to alert public opinion to global ecological challenges and to environmental problems affecting Portugal, while also recognising the urgent need to find the right answers to such problems, the aim of Os Verdes was to place these issues as top priorities within institutional concerns. A further goal was to promote activities at the local level, supported by the local population, with the purpose of increasing ecological awareness among the citizens.

To achieve these goals, regional branches of Os Verdes were created, whose growth can still be noted. Several activities were promoted, and environmental, along with other related issues, were brought to the forefront of the political agenda. Os Verdes demanded that the government deal with their resolutions and ideas for future solutions. Political strategies were studied in order to guarantee the presence of an ecological voice in both the national parliament and at the local level. In this way, Os Verdes

have participated in several coalitions with other parties (the Communist Party and the Socialist Party, among others) to achieve recognition in various elections.

Now, Os Verdes believe they have provided a valuable contribution to the growth of Portuguese ecological awareness. They play an active role in ensuring that the most profound concerns of the general population (and more specifically environmental movements) are brought to the attention of the national parliament and have a strong voice where ecological issues are concerned.

Os Verdes have unremittingly alerted society to several problems and have presented concrete proposals not only for the resolution of such problems, but also to identify new ways to move toward sustainable development in order to guarantee a better future.

The Green Party, Os Verdes, is present in the national parliament, where they currently hold 2 seats. On the local level, they have a total of 35 seats. They are also represented in both the National Elections Council and the National Council of Education.

### ***CURRENT GOVERNMENT:***

National Government: PS (Socialist Party)

Other Parties Represented in National Parliament: PSD (Social Democrats), PCP (Communist Party), CDS/PP (Christian Democrats), Os Verdes; BE (Bloco de Esquerda)

### ***ELECTION INFORMATION:***

Next National Elections: 2003

#### **Latest Green Party Election Results:**

National Election Year:	1999	Total No. National Votes:	5 363 906
MPs:	2	% Gained:	9,02 *
European Elections:	--	Total No. European Votes:	348 0948
MEPs:	0	% Gained:	10,3 *

\* Os Verdes ran in coalition with the Communist Party and the ID (Democratic Intervention). The value refers to the total number of votes obtained by the coalition.

# ROMANIA:FEDERATIA ECOLOGISTA DIN ROMANIA

FER is a political party whose principal purpose is to form the necessary framework that can unify all ecological currents across the country (movements, parties, alliances, associations. Etc.) In this way, we want to offer society an ecological and alternative form of government in the context of development and progress.

Through the absorption of "The Ecological Move from Romania," a Christmas tree with a heart became the propriety of FER and now represents the electoral sign.

FER's motto is "A clean man in a clean country, in a clean world."

FER is organised and functions on administrative and territorial criteria. Our main political issues include the following:

We fight for:

- Economical and social eco-development
- Environmental protection
- Social protection
- Promotion of a foreign policy based on international cooperation
- Elimination of nuclear danger
- Permanent improvement of the environment
- Maintenance of the biodiversity
- Lasting development
- Eradication of poverty and food security

In addition, FER is pleading for a free market economy, one that would allow for the creativity of the citizens. Government intervention must be stopped, except in the case of protecting the environment, preventing exploitation and maintaining the balance between the output and distribution of resources.

## **CURRENT GOVERNMENT:**

National Government: --

Other Parties Represented in National Parliament: --

## **ELECTION INFORMATION:**

Next National Elections: 2004

### **Latest Green Party Election Results:**

National Election Year:	2000	Total No. National Votes:	--
MPs:	0	% Gained: 6 % (in coalition)	
European Elections:	NA / EUA*	Total No. European Votes:	NA / EUA
MEPs:	NA / EUA	% Gained:	NA / EUA

\* EUA = European Union Applicant Country

## **SLOVAKIA : STRANA ZELENÝCH NA SLOVENSKU**

The Green Party in Slovakia (GPS) has managed to catch up with the contemporary trend of Green policy in Europe and to take the responsibility for the sustainable development of Slovakia into their own hands.

With a view toward the national elections in September 1998, fourteen members of the GPS left their mother party and joined the SDK to establish the so-called "Green Platform of SDK"—the Slovak Democratic Coalition that consists of five democracy-oriented oppositional parties: SDK, Christian Democratic Movement, Democratic Union, Democratic Party, and Social Democratic Party of Slovakia. The GPS gained huge support from environmental NGOs and citizens movements. With their help, and through the "Civic Campaign," designed to raise the young electorate's understanding of and participation in the general elections, the SDK became the leading opposition party before the elections.

The appointment of the new government of the Slovak Republic occurred on October 30 1998. SDK managed to create a governing coalition constituting four parties; SDK, Party of Democratic Left (SDL), Party of Hungarian Coalition (SMK) and the Party of Civic Understanding (SOP). The Green Platform of SDK was allowed four seats in the National Council. These are filled by L.Ambróš, A.Juriš, J.Rusnák and P.Prokopovic. In the national parliament, one MP was elected as Chairman of the Committee for Environment and Nature Protection. Disappointingly, only one post in the Ministry of Environment was allocated to the GPS. Mrs Zdenka Tóthová, chairwoman of the GPS, was appointed as vice-minister.

### **Main Political Issues**

The Slovak Green Party has drawn up a new manifesto called the "GPS Programme for the Sustainable Development of the Slovak Republic," which was approved at the 8th Congress of GPS in June 1998. This document is the first programme developed by a Slovak political party devoted to achieving sustainability for the country. It is based on the Rio de Janeiro "92 UNCED AGENDA 21" and is divided into seven chapters dealing with the following issues: green philosophy, democracy and human rights, protection of the environment and nature, the economy, social programmes and the sustainable development of Slovakia, as well as national and international affairs. In addition to the aforementioned "AGENDA 21," GPS also used other documents to develop their manifesto. These include such documents as the European Convention on Human Rights, European Social Charter, European Water Charter, European Charter of Local Self-governing Communities, and of course, the Guiding Principles of the European Federation of Green Parties.

Besides decentralisation and sustainability principles, many other proposals are included in the programme (i.e., an Ombudsman for environmental issues, a new approach to the implementation of environmental law, Green tax reform, a prosecution system specialised to deal with enviro-criminality, replacement of the "Concept of Military Security" with a "Concept of Environmental Security" based on excellent relations and preferably with neighbouring nations, etc.). GPS maintains its existing opinion on the phasing out of nuclear

energy and continues to oppose hosting Winter Olympic Games in national parks.

### **Historical Development**

The GPS was founded as one of the first parties in Slovakia in 1989/90, just after the so-called "Velvet Revolution." The 1st free General Election in 1990 saw GPS gain 3,1 % of the national votes and 6 MPs in the Slovak National Council. Many GPS experts also managed to be placed in district state administrative offices for the environment. During this time, the Slovak Committee on the Environment created basic laws regarding the protection of nature and the environment, which were approved by parliament. In the local elections in 1990, GPS gained 452 councillors and 54 mayors.

The Party split caused a decline in the number of members, as well as electoral support. As a result, GPS obtained only 2,14 % votes for the National Parliament and 2,62 % of votes for the Federal Parliament in the 1992 General Elections.

From 1992-1994, when GPS was a non-parliamentary party, the decline in membership continued. Even GPS representatives in the newly created Ministry of Environment of the SR couldn't stop some Green heads of regional offices from deserting the party. Just before the General Elections in 1994, GPS decided to enter into a coalition with the Democratic Left Party (SDL), the Social Democratic Party of Slovakia (SDSS) and the Agrarian Movement (HP).

In the Local Elections in 1994 we obtained 206 councillors and 11 mayors, but the decline in membership and electoral support still continued.

The period since the 7th Congress of GPS in March 1997 can be referred to as a time of revitalisation for the Slovak Green Party. Lead by a new president (Mrs. Zdenka Tóthová), the members of GPS gradually gained fresh hopes for the Greens in Slovakia. Since the split of the Czechoslovak Federation in 1993, members had been disillusioned by the long years of non-persuasive policy.

The 8th Congress of GPS in June 1998 confirmed the contemporary policy of GPS and its participation in the Slovak Democratic Coalition, which is aimed at changing the non-democratic orientation of the Slovak government. The results of the general elections in September 1998 have been positive in this respect. The GPS is now organised into the following four levels:

- A central secretariat in the capital, Bratislava, which serves the president and the GPS coordination committee
- The regional secretariats in some of the 8 newly established state administration units
- The district GPS associations (with the district co-ordinators of GPS)
- Basic groups of GPS (ZS SZS) in communities

This future goal of the GPS is to stand alone in the 2002 national elections.

## ***CURRENT GOVERNMENT:***

**National Government:** Slovak Democratic Coalition (SDK), Party of Democratic Left (SDL), Party of Hungarian Coalition (SMK), Party of Civic Understanding (SOP)

**Other Parties Represented in National Parliament:** Movement for Democratic Slovakia (HZDS), Slovak National Party (SNS)

## ***ELECTION INFORMATION:***

**Next National Elections:** Autumn 2002

### **Latest Green Party Election Results:**

National Election Year:	1998	Total No. National Votes:	88 494
MPs: 4 and 1 Minister		% Gained:	2,6
European Elections:	NA / EUA*	Total No. European Votes:	NA / EUA
MEPs:	NA / EUA	% Gained:	NA / EUA

\* EUA = European Union Applicant Country

## **SPAIN: CONFEDERACIÓN DE LOS VERDES**

On May 19<sup>th</sup> 2001 over 600 delegates from all over Spain participated in the constitution of the Federation « Los Verdes – Izquierda Verde (Greens-Green left) » that promises to finally put green politics on the map of the Spanish national scene. This new broadbased green-left federation, in which the Confederación de Los Verdes plays a key role, is by far the most serious, feasible and innovative political proposal put forth by the Spanish Greens. The coming months will be important for the consolidation and the emergence of the new green federation.

As in other southern European countries Spain's relative economic backwardness fueled a developmentalist consensus across the political spectrum creating a difficult background for the growth of a strong green political movement. Another factor has been the strength – until recently – of a communist-led left-wing party, Izquierda Unida, that has maintained a close relationship with the ecology movement despite its generally old-left ideology. It is also very important to take into account the difficulty of political action within the linguistic complexity and the regional division of Spanish politics (four languages and over 10 nationalist parties) that on a state-wide level is only overcome by the Partido Popular and the Partido Socialista.

The history of the Spanish Greens, until recently, has been one of organizational and political weakness due to a difficult context, the absence of a visible leadership on a national level – especially in Madrid – and internal division. What has added to the confusion during elections is the existence of a number of “virtual” green parties permitted by an electoral law that allows any small group of people to form a political party and to be present in the elections.

In 1999 the Spanish Greens decided to run in the European elections with Iniciativa per Catalunya – Verds, a Catalan party from the “renovated left” that had broken with Izquierda Unida in 1997, that has significant institutional representation on a regional and local level, and another regional left party called Chunta Aragonista. Despite a last-minute campaign and the lack of leadership in Madrid, we came within 3000 votes of winning a seat in the EP.

### **CURRENT GOVERNMENT:**

National Government: PPE - Conservative Party

Other parties represented in national Parliament: Socialists, Communists, Regionalists, Greens-Left

### **ELECTION INFORMATION:**

Next National Elections: 2004

#### **Latest Green Party Election Results:**

National Election Year:	2000	Total No. National Votes:	--
MPs:	2	% Gained:	--
European Elections:	1999	Total No. European Votes:	300 000
MEPs:	0	% Gained:	1,43

In the 1999 regional elections 2 greens were elected to the Mallorcan Parliament and now form part of the regional government and the Environment minister is a member of the Greens. In the region of Andalusia an agreement with the Socialists has also permitted the Greens to hold responsibilities in the government and to occupy one seat in the parliament. The presence of Greens in the Mallorcan Islands and in Andalusia has been decisive in the introduction of eco-taxes and the protection of coastal and other valuable areas from urban expansion. In other regions, Valencia and the Canary Islands among them, the Greens have a smattering of local council members and a certain presence in the local and regional press.

In the 2000 national elections two of our allies (observer members of the Confederación de Los Verdes) were elected to the national parliament from Aragon and Catalonia. That same year we held a meeting of over 100 elected green-left representatives in the Spanish Parliament.

Early this year, the Greens together with Izquierda Democrática Cantabra (a regional left-green party in coalition with the Socialists), Iniciativa per Catalunya and a number of groups from Nueva Izquierda ( a party that broke away from Izquierda Unida over IU's opposition to Maastricht and other questions) along with well-known individuals from NGOs and ecology groups, decided to launch a new federation “Los Verdes-Izquierda Verde”.

This is an alliance of the Greens with “renovated left” parties that clearly identify with the European Greens and the construction of Europe. With time we hope this federation will become a reference point for all those seeking a serious and possible green option that is badly needed on a Spanish political scene that has been shaken by numerous social-ecological crises (National Water Plan, food crisis, severe river pollution, massive urban-tourist expansion on the coast, urban areas dominated noise and traffic, etc..) without the presence of a political force that concentrates on offering positive solutions pointing toward sustainability.

# SWEDEN: MILJÖPARTIET DE GRÖNA

## Party Election History

The Swedish Green Party, "Miljöpartiet de Gröna," was founded in 1981, largely as a reaction to a growing concern about environmental problems and a lack of political will to solve them. Miljöpartiet took part in the general elections of 1982 and 1985, but it was not until 1988 that the party received more than the required 4% of the votes to be represented in the Swedish Parliament. Miljöpartiet then gained 5.5 % of the votes and became the first new party to enter the Swedish Parliament in 70 years. In 1991, Miljöpartiet obtained only 3.4% of the votes and was consequently forced out of parliament. However, a well-planned campaign in 1994 brought the party back to Parliament with 5% of the votes and in 1995 the Green Party achieved 17.2% in the Swedish elections to the European Parliament. In the 1998 elections, the Swedish Greens lost 0,5% (5,0% to 4,5%) but gained political power. Because of the worst election result for the Social Democratic Party in 70 years, the Social Democrats were forced to co-operate with the Greens and the Left Party.

## Party's Position on International Issues

International cooperation is desirable and necessary, particularly on environmental issues, human rights, cultural development, disarmament and peace. We therefore aim to strengthen the United Nations and establish an international court on environmental matters. In Europe, we want to develop international cooperation within the Council of Europe and the OSCE (Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe).

Miljöpartiet demands a halt to all exports of weapons from Sweden. Trade should be extended and cultural links strengthened. However, free trade must be subordinated to environmental requirements and labour conditions, so that the environment, poor people and individuals are not exploited by the wealthy for their own purposes.

## CURRENT GOVERNMENT:

**National Government:** Social Democratic Party (as minority government), cooperation with Left Party and Green Party.

**Other Parties Represented in National Parliament:** Social Democratic Party, Moderate Party, Left Party, Christian Democratic Party, Centre Party, Liberal Democratic Party, Green Party.

## ELECTION INFORMATION:

**Next National Elections:** 2002

### Latest Green Party Election Results:

National Election Year:	1998	Total No. National Votes:	236 699
MPs:	16	% Gained:	4,5
European Elections:	1999	Total No. European Votes:	245 955
MEPs:	2	% Gained:	9,5

The Nordic countries aim for comprehensive cooperation, in order to become ecologically sustainable societies in social harmony. Sweden should pursue a generous policy regarding refugees, and make more resources available for international aid to development efforts, which are environmentally and socially sustainable.

We are opposed to Swedish membership within the European Union. Sweden should not accept the convergence criteria of the EMU as a goal for Swedish economic policy and should not join the third stage of the EMU (i.e. a common central bank and a common European currency). Miljöpartiet wants less EU protectionism vis à vis the rest of the world. However, trade rules should be tied to strict environmental and social protection clauses against detrimental effects of the uncurbed free trade. Miljöpartiet will support critical and open reports about EU activities and their effects upon the Swedish society. We encourage the Swedish people to take an active part in the ongoing process and urge a new referendum on whether Sweden should leave the European Union.

As a member of the European Union, Sweden has lost its economic and national independence. Many of the decisions affecting our country are taken behind closed doors in Brussels. Miljöpartiet believes instead in strengthening our national right of self-determination. Sweden should retain the right to follow an independent economic policy and to maintain its freedom of alliance and neutrality. We seek to develop ecologically sustainable agriculture and defend the right to set tougher health and environmental protection standards.

Miljöpartiet wants to protect Sweden's right to follow its own drug and alcohol policies and to strengthen the general principle of every citizen's right to access government and public authority documents.

## SWITZERLAND: GRÜNE/LES VERTS

The trilingual Swiss Green Party celebrated its 15th anniversary in May 1998, although many of the cantonal parties that form the Federation of the Swiss Greens were actually founded in the 1970s, especially in French-speaking Switzerland. In the meantime the Swiss Greens have established themselves as the fifth largest party in the country; the 4 bigger parties are presently represented in the national governing body (the Bundesrat).

The Swiss have the honour of having the first elected Green MP to a national parliament: Daniel Brélaz from Lausanne, who was elected in 1979! In 1983, the elections brought 4, the 1987 elections 11, and the 1991 elections 14 Green MPs to the 200-member Nationalrat.

In 1995, the Swiss Greens experienced their first setback, when only 8 Green MPs were elected (4 women and 4 men), but the percentage only dropped from 6.1 to 5%.

After the elections however, 2 other MPs, who were elected on other alternative lists, joined the Green Group, so that the group is still the fifth largest in the national parliament. The seats that were lost went to the Social Democrats, who gained 13 seats in 1995. This showed that unemployment and economic growth were considered more important issues than those covered by the Greens, especially the Green's unclear position (on cantonal and national level) regarding the European Union (which led many citizens vote for the Social Democrats). For the same reasons, the Swiss Greens also have lost seats in the cantonal parliaments in recent elections, but they are still represented in 15 out of 26 cantonal parliaments with a total of 117 seats.

A great success for three of the older Green cantonal parties was the election of their candidate to the cantonal executive council of three major cantons: Philippe Biéler in the Vaud, Robert Cramer in Geneva and Verena Diener in Zurich. Furthermore, the Greens also have executive members in the city councils of Geneva, Lausanne, Zurich and Schaffhausen.

The Swiss Greens have taken the first steps from being an opposition party to taking over responsibility. This also became manifest in the 1995 national election platform, which declared

that the aim of the Swiss Greens is to become a reform party looking for new majorities together with other open-minded forces in the country. The basis for this policy is that many of the urgent issues, such as sustainable development, energy taxes, drugs and transport policies, need new alliances in order to be solved in the near future.

It was with one laughing and one weeping eye that the Swiss Greens acknowledged the results of the federal elections of 24 October 1999. Weeping, when they discovered how many seats the right wing had won; laughing, because they were stable and still rest of the major party without participation in the four-party government.

At the national party congresses, the Swiss Greens have had constructive debates on many major issues in economic, ecological and social fields. The debates have resulted in binding position papers that have been agreed upon. The main subjects are the following:

- Ecological tax reform
- Guaranteed minimum wages, new job sharing models
- Peace and security
- A new health policy (prevention rather than treatment)
- A new traffic and transport policy
- Opening towards Europe (EU) and the world (UN/WTO)
- Drugs (differentiated liberalisation)
- Migration
- Genetic engineering

In 1996, for the first time in their history, the Swiss Greens succeeded in collecting enough signatures for two nationwide initiatives (over 100 000 signatures each for the so-called Tandem-Initiatives). The initiatives included demands for the following: a secured old-age pension financed also with a tax on non-renewable energy (not only by a percentage of the monthly salary) and a flexible retiring age from 62 onward for both men and women. These two initiatives will have to be voted on by the Swiss people and will provoke an interesting debate in the parliament, the media and the public.

### CURRENT GOVERNMENT:

**National Government:** Radical Party, Peoples Party, Social Democrats, Christian Democrats

**Other Parties Represented in National Parliament:** Green Party, Independants, Evangelical Party, Swiss Democrats, Freedom Party, Lega di Ticinese

### ELECTION INFORMATION:

**Next National Elections:** 2003

#### Latest Green Party Election Results:

National Election Year:	1999	Total No. National Votes:	97 935
MPs:	9	% Gained:	4,96
European Elections:	NA	Total No. European Votes:	NA
MEPs:	NA	% Gained:	NA

## UKRAINIAN GREEN PARTY

Founded in the early 1990's, the Ukrainian Green Party has been growing as a well-known political branch of the Ukrainian Green movement since 1991. Restructured in 1993 to meet the changing realities of the economical transition period, the party has accumulated certain political weight; Surveys have reflected up to 10% public support for the Greens. The imperfection of former voting systems (existent until 1997) discriminated against parties' participation in elections and did not allow this support to be converted into the representation in Verhovna Rada—the Ukrainian Parliament.

Ukrainian Greens, with up to 6 000 members, have nevertheless succeeded in participating in the presidential councils of political parties and being represented in 21 out of 27 regions of the Ukraine. In several regions, the representatives of Ukrainian Greens have been elected to the local governmental authorities, highlighting the growing strength of the party.

The general approach of Ukrainian Greens is the priority of political tools in overcoming the present ecological and economical situation.

Ukrainians inherited an anti-ecological and ineffective economical system from the Soviets that ruthlessly exhausted natural resources, damaged wildlife, and influenced human environmental beliefs. Fortunately, many have recognised the importance of ecological priority for humankind's development. The main mission of the Ukrainian Green Party is, therefore, the alteration of ecological attitudes and the reconstruction of the

social system to reconcile the growing needs of society with the necessary ecological interests.

The change in the social system must be prepared in the appropriate political atmosphere. For this reason, Greens of the Ukraine have clearly stated their positions concerning the major political issues of today.

The protection of human rights is a perpetual concern for the Greens. Ignorance of the population has resulted in the numerous incidences of sexual discrimination, limitations of woman rights and racism. By promoting human rights, the Ukrainian Greens defend the implementation of natural tolerance in human relationships that often are marked with negligence and extremism.

It is clearly viewed that militarisation and arms accrual in Europe have become a dangerous tendency in our part of the world. The Greens advocate the neutral status of the Ukraine. Co-operation with NATO is welcomed, but the development of European political and social institutes (OBSE, EU and others) is definitely proffered in the expansion of NATO to the East. Arms must not dictate their will to integrate Europe of the 21st century!

Solutions for common ecological, social and political problems have to be generated by the insistent efforts of European Greens. In this respect, the Green Party of the Ukraine stands for the enhancement of various connections between the Greens of Europe within the framework of the European Federation of Green parties.

### **CURRENT GOVERNMENT:**

**National Government:** Communist Party, Socialist Party, Social Democrats, Peoples Democratic Party, Peoples Rukh, "Gromada" Progressive Socialist Party, Peasants Party

### **ELECTION INFORMATION:**

Next National Elections: 2002

#### **Latest Green Party Election Results:**

National Election Year:	1998	Total No. National Votes:	1 448 000
MPs:	17	% Gained:	5,45
European Elections:	NA	Total No. European Votes:	NA
MEPs:	NA	% GAINED:	NA

## UK: ENGLAND AND WALES: GREEN PARTY

The first ecology party in Europe was founded in the UK in 1973. Originally called "People", it changed its name to "Ecology Party." In the general election of 1979, despite having only 500 members, the party fielded 50 candidates, thus securing a television broadcast. This led to the first big expansion of the party, to 5 000 members. In 1985, the party changed its name to "Green Party." In the 1989 European election, the party achieved the then highest ever percentage vote for a Green Party in Europe, with 15%. The British first-past-the-post voting system meant, however, that this did not translate into any seats in the European Parliament.

The majoritarian voting system and lack of state funding have made it very difficult for the party to make progress in parliamentary elections. Since 1994 there has been a concerted push to get people elected to local government. The same majoritarian voting system is in use, but active and hard-working local parties have been able to build support up to the 40% level often required to win. 50 and over 60% of the vote has been achieved in some cases.

The Party now has over 30 members on major local councils and 'official groups' of 2 or more councillors (which have more power) on several. In Oxford the Party has 4 City and 2 county councillors and in 1998 scored 18% of the vote across all 17 electoral areas of the city. Both here and in Islington (in London) the Party got more votes in total than the Conservatives to become the third best supported Party in the area. 1998 also saw the formation of a Green Party group on a large Metropolitan Borough Council for the first time (Kirklees in Yorkshire) and its first wins in London where 2 councillors were elected in Hackney. In fact there have been a number of stunning Green wins in previously Labour held urban areas over the last few years. The party also has councillors at Parish and Town Council level in many rural areas, so it is clear that there is support for the Green Party in all parts of the country, but it needs to be galvanised by active local members.

There are large parts of England and Wales where there are no local groups or where such groups are small and inactive. This adds to the difficulties of achieving a national profile. The election of the Labour Government in May 1997 has resulted in significant electoral reform. Proportional representation was used in the European Election and elections to the new Scottish Parliament and Welsh Assembly. It should be noted that the size

of the electoral areas and the chosen counting system have been designed to favour the Parties already in the UK Parliament. Despite that, Robin Harper was elected the first Green Parliamentarian as Member of the Scottish Parliament (MSP) for the Lothian Region, and Jean Lambert and Caroline Lucas were elected as MEPs for London and the South East respectively.

The European Election has left the Party with very little in the financial reserves and has not led to a significant increase in membership. A minimal budget is likely to be set for 2000-2001 in order to let the Party's reserves recover. Party activists, meanwhile, will be busy supporting the newly elected representatives. The Green Party has also gained its first ever member of the House of Lords (the second chamber in Westminster) by the defection of former Liberal Democrat peer, Lord Beaumont of Whitley.

In terms of issue-based campaigning, the party has had success in getting parliamentary bills drafted and enacted despite having no members of parliament. These laws included domestic energy conservation and road traffic reduction. The party has always stressed the importance of non-violent direct action as well as electoral politics. In the last few years it has been the only party to support the anti-road protestors and has deliberately tried to attract young people, with some success.

Current campaigning is focused on opposition to genetically modified food (including participation by members in digging up trial crops) and globalisation of trade and investment, along with the poorly recognised dangers of low level radiation. Achieving any kind of profile in the Westminster-obsessed national media remains difficult, but with several crucial elections coming up, the Party has now managed to employ a full-time national Press Officer for the first time in several years.

On the 4th May 2000 the Greens gained three seats in Greater London Assembly (11.1%) and three new local council seats.

The England and Wales Green Party works closely with the Scottish Green Party, the Wales Green Party, the Northern Ireland Green Party, the Comhaontas Glas and the Jersey Greens as part of the Green Islands Network, set up in 1994. More recently links have been set up with the new North Sea Forum of Green Parties.

### **CURRENT GOVERNMENT:**

**National Government:** Labour Party (*with a very large majority*)

**Other parties represented in national Parliament:** Labour Party, Conservative Party, Liberal-Democrat Party, Plaid Cymru (Welsh Nationalist), Ulster Unionist Party, Democratic Unionist Party, Popular Unionist Party, Social Democratic and Labour Party, Sinn Fein, Independent.

### **ELECTION INFORMATION:**

**Next National Elections:** Westminster National Parliament: 7th June 2001; Scottish Parliament: May 2003; Welsh Assembly: May 2003

#### **Latest Green Party Election Results:**

National Election Year:	1997	Total No. National Votes:	64 021
MPs:	0	% Gained:	1,38
European Elections:	1999	Total No. European Votes:	625 378
MEPs:	2	% Gained:	6,25

## **UK: SCOTLAND: SCOTTISH GREEN PARTY**

The Scottish Green Party declared autonomy from the UK Green Party (now the Green Party of England and Wales, GPEW) ten years ago. We imagined the tide of history would quickly ensure electoral successes, despite the handicap of Britain's electoral system, which is designed to favour the two largest parties. Although success did not come in the form, or at the time, we had envisaged, Scottish devolution and the creation of a Scottish Parliament in May 1999 presented us with a chance we could not have dreamed of then. The parliament was elected under a system of partial PR. We got one list candidate elected with the second vote (e.g. Robin Harper). Our European election results were encouraging in several areas of Scotland, but none of us was elected.

We are a small party, with a membership of around 500 (but rising). We are now more determined to offer a Green alternative to the grey parties, which have dominated the political landscape in this country for so long. We have two conferences each year

(one in spring and one in autumn), which are open to members of other Green parties visiting Scotland. We have set up a party office in the same building as the MSP.

Our main campaign topics are the following: resources, transport, the national and local economy, land reform and food. All our policies are designed to create a fairer and more sustainable society and to alleviate poverty, which is a huge problem in many urban and rural areas of Scotland.

Our executive committee runs the Party for the Council, which is made up of Policy Portfolio holders.

As part of the Green Islands Network, the North Sea Network and the European Federation of Green Parties, we place our local and national efforts into the context of a global green perspective.

### ***CURRENT GOVERNMENT:***

**National Government:** Labour/Liberal Coalition (British Government = Labour)

**Other Parties Represented in National Parliament:** (from Scottish constituencies) Labour (56 Seats), Liberal Democrats (10 Seats), Scottish National Party (6 Seats)

### ***ELECTION INFORMATION:***

**Next National Elections:** Westminster Parliament: June 2001; Scottish Elections: 2004

#### **Latest Green Party Election Results:**

National Election year:	1999	Total No. National Votes:	82 024
MPs (Scottish):	1	% Gained:	3,71
European Elections:	1999	Total No. European Votes:	57 127
MEPs:	0	% Gained:	5,8

## Observer Parties:

### FEDERATION OF YOUNG EUROPEAN GREENS

The FYEG was founded in 1988 in Belgium. It was founded with the aim of bringing together young ecological groups from all over Europe to encourage both mutual understanding and mutual action to promote a greener Europe. The federation began modestly with a few Member Organisations from both Eastern and Western Europe. Member organisations are either the youth wings of Green Parties or environmental non-governmental youth organisations. Since then it has grown quite substantially and now has over 20 Member organisations from all the different regions of Europe – In total over 15 000 members. Today, the FYEG is a formally constituted organisation under Belgian law with the secretariat being located at the European Parliament in Brussels.

FYEG conducts a variety of activities over the span of a year. We still hold roughly two seminars per year, in different parts of Europe, which tackle topical issues and bring together dozens of young Europeans to meet and discuss in a friendly and open environment. We publish a newsletter (*Ecosprinter*) four times per year to publicise our point of view and inform our activists of past and upcoming activities. We also have a bi-yearly magazine (*Ecoplasma*) that looks at a topic in-depth, normally one recently covered in a seminar. We also have an active email list. We regularly attend seminars and meetings organised by the European Commission, the Council of Europe, the European Youth Forum (of which we are full members) and other youth organisations.

FYEG usually hosts a formal meeting once a year for its Federative Council, where member organisations send delegates to decide on policy and strategy. An executive committee of 6 people is elected to serve a two-year term.

FYEG recently decided to reorient the organisation to be more political, and our recent activities reflect that change of direction. The change has given us some hitherto unimagined successes. In

1999 FYEG was a significant co-organiser of two large international youth events. The first was the Paris Picnique in May 1999, where around 1000 young Europeans were brought together in Paris for a weekend to meet, discuss, demonstrate and party together. The second was the alternative summit in Cologne in June 1999, where FYEG held a parallel seminar and was involved in the many activities organised during the G8 and EU Council of Ministers meeting. Another great success was the election of then FYEG President, Ilka Schroeder, to the European Parliament in June 1999. At the age of 21, she is the youngest ever MEP.

However the FYEG is not without problems. Firstly is the problem of sustainability. Due to the instability of life for young people today (work, studies, family etc.) there is a high turnover of activists and therefore a continual loss of skill and experience. Secondly is the related problem of money. Our main funders are the European Commission and the Council of Europe. Budget lines for youth organisations are in constant decline. Meanwhile bureaucratic demands are in constant increase. We only have enough money for one-part time employees and rely on the goodwill and time of a variety of overworked young activists from across Europe. Two positions on FYEG executive committee are currently vacant, meaning more work for the few reliable activists.

Notwithstanding, FYEG remains a functioning and active organisation. The Green Group in the European Parliament has been kind enough to give us a permanent office in the European Parliament. However it can not be denied that FYEG is not living up to its potential as a potent force fighting the green front in Europe. We saw in 1999 a glimpse of what is possible for FYEG. Given more resources, more reliable activists and more material and psychological encouragement from other more stable political Green organisations, the impact of FYEG could be considerably greater

## **POLAND: FORUM EKOLOGICZNE UNII WOLNOSCI (ECOLOGICAL FORUM OF THE UNION FOR FREEDOM)**

Ecological Forum, with its 400 members is not a separate, independent party. We are a fraction inside one of the biggest parties in Poland – Union for Freedom.

The predecessor of Union for Freedom, Democratic Union, was created in 1991. It was Democratic Union that was the party of the first non-communist prime minister in Poland and in the whole of CEEC. In 1994, together with another post-Solidarity party, the Liberal – Democratic Congress, Democratic Union formed a new party – Union for Freedom.

Union for Freedom is a party locating itself somewhere between the centre and the right wing of the political scene. It has strong anti-communistic background. Union for Freedom has over 20 000 members, 60 MPs and 8 senators. In the current coalition government, Union for Freedom is represented by 5 ministers (including vice-prime minister, Balcerowicz) and about 15 vice-ministers.

Ecological Forum was created in 1991 during the first congress of Democratic Union. At that time it was called Ecological Fraction. Its first chairman was Radoslaw Gawlik. From the very beginning our goal was to make the policies of our party, Democratic Union and later Union for Freedom, green. We represent the opinion that economic policy of states targeting exclusively the possibly highest level of material consumption and failing to recognise long-term consequences to the environment or to man is no longer acceptable today. We try to introduce the sustainable development principle into different policies of our party.

In 1994 Ecological Fraction changed its name into Ecological Forum. Radoslaw Gawlik remained its chairman and the two vice-chairmen, Joanna Rzeszowska-Wolny and Janusz Okrzesik, were elected. In 1995 the programme conference of the EF was held and the document prepared by the conference was presented during the congress of Union for Freedom.

Ecological Forum takes part in the elections under the auspices of Union for Freedom. In 1997, couple of months before national elections, Ecological Forum created a coalition with several non-governmental ecological organisations, representing almost all the ecological movements in Poland. The coalition was called the Electoral Coalition of Ecological Leaders, and it participated in the elections with its representatives' names put on the lists of Union for Freedom despite the fact that some of them weren't members of the party. As a result of the elections Ecological Forum got 11 seats in the Parliament: 10 in the lower (Sejm) and one in the upper chamber (Senate).

After the elections Union for Freedom created a government with the Solidarity Election Action – an alliance of a large number of smaller, right-wing parties. Ecological Forum has been represented in the government by Radoslaw Gawlik who was nominated secretary of state (first deputy minister) in the Ministry of Environment.

During the Council of Ecological Forum in March 1998, a new National Board of the EF was elected, with Maciej Kozakiewicz as a new chairman and two vice-chairmen: Piotr Glinski and Janusz Okrzesik. A chapter on ecological policy of Union for Freedom was prepared by the EF, presented during the Programme Conference of the party in April 2000 and accepted as an official chapter of the programme of Union for Freedom.

### **CURRENT GOVERNMENT:**

National Government: Solidarity Election Action, Union for Freedom

Other Parties Represented in National Parliament: Solidarity Election Action (right), Democratic Left Alliance (post-communists), Union for Freedom, Polish Peasant Party, Movement for the Reconstruction of Poland (right), Confederation for the Independent Poland – Homeland (right), PPS-RLP (socialists), Porozumienie Polskie

### **ELECTION INFORMATION:**

Next National Elections: 2001

#### **Latest Election Results: \***

National Elections Year:	1997	Total No. National Votes:	--
MPs:	60 (10 EF)*	% Gained:	13,37
European Elections	NA/EUA *	Total No. European Votes:	NA/EUA
MEPs:	NA/EUA	% Gained:	NA/EUA

\* Because Ecological Forum does not independently participate in the elections, the results apply to the Union of Freedom, with the numbers in parentheses referring specifically to the Ecological Forum.

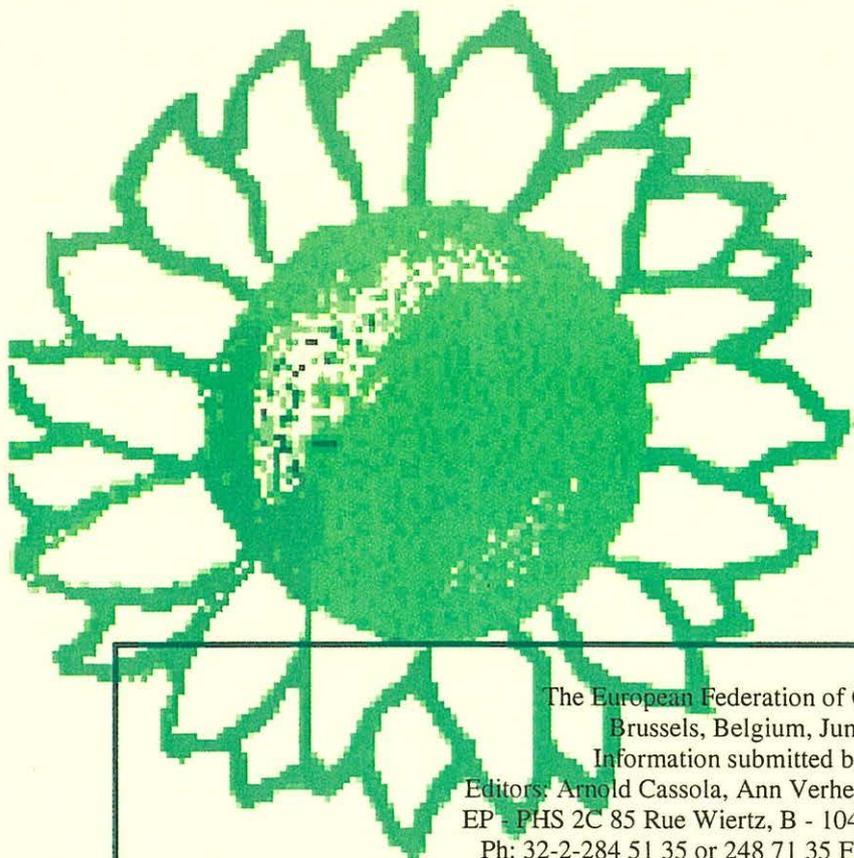
\* Plus 8 Senators (1EF)

\* EUA = European Union Applicant Country

**DENMARK: SOCIALISTISK FOLKEPARTI**

*(No information was available at time of publication)*





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The European Federation of Green Parties represents 31 member parties across Europe.  
The parties today are represented in 17 national parliaments by 192 Green Parliamentarians and  
in the European Parliament by 36 Green Members.