

# GREENS/EFA GROUP STATUTES

## Statutes of the Parliamentary Group

### “ The Greens/European Free Alliance in the European Parliament ”

(adopted on 08 November 2006,  
changed on 5 October 2016 and 15 July 2020)

#### CHAPTER I

### CONSTITUTION OF THE GROUP

**1.1** The Parliamentary Group was constituted on 19 July 1989, under the name ‘The Green Group in the European Parliament’, in accordance with the provisions of its Rules of Procedure and the Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament. The declaration of constitution was published in the Official Journal of the European Communities C 256/39 of 9 October 1989.

**1.2** The name of the Group was changed with effect from 19 July 1999 (Official Journal of the European Communities C 301/1999). The Parliamentary Group has since been known as:

‘Les Verts/Alliance Libre Européenne’	in French
‘De Groenen/Vrije Europese Alliantie’	in Dutch
‘The Greens/European Free Alliance’	in English
‘Die Grünen/Europäische Freie Allianz’	in German
‘I Verdi/Alleanza libera europea’	in Italian
‘Los Verdes/Alianza Libre Europea’	in Spanish
‘De Gröna/Europeiska fria alliansen’	in Swedish
‘Vihreät/Euroopan vapaa allianssi’	in Finnish
‘De Grønne/Den Europ.iske Fri Alliance’	in Danish
‘Berdeak/Europako Aliantza Librea’	in Basque
‘Y Gwyrddion/Cynghrair Rhydd Ewrop’	in Welsh
‘Els Verds/Aliança Lliure Europea’	in Catalan
‘Na h-Uainich/Saor Caidreabhas Eorpach’	in Scots Gaelic
‘Zalie/Eiropas Brīva apvienība’	in Latvian
‘Los Verds/Aliança Liura Europèa’	in Occitan
‘Zeleni / Europska swobodna alianca’	in Sorbian
‘Ar Re C’hlas/Emglev Libr Europa’	in Breton

**1.3** The Group shall be governed by these Statutes and by all the texts the Group decides by an absolute majority of the members of the Group to annex to them. These statutory annexes include, in particular, the Memorandum of Understanding between the Green Members of the European Parliament and the European Free Alliance Members of the European Parliament, adopted on 8 July 1999, and which constitutes the general framework of the relations between these two parts, and any similar agreements concluded between the Group and other Members of the European Parliament that join the Group.

## CHAPTER 2

### MEMBERSHIP OF THE GROUP

**2.1** The Group shall consist of representatives elected to the European Parliament on the lists supported by the European Green Party and representatives elected to the European Parliament on the lists supported by the European Free Alliance Party within the framework laid down in the Memorandum of Understanding signed between these two bodies and annexed to these Statutes. Both components can accept new members in their midst. These admissions require a consensus. If a consensus is not reached, the 'Monitoring and Conciliation Committee' foreseen in the Protocol of understanding between Members of the Green Group in the European Parliament & Members of the EFA shall decide.

**2.2** Other Members of the European Parliament may become members of the Group if the Group agrees by consensus, following consultation of the national parties concerned, and after these Members have declared their full support for the fundamental values laid down in the Charter of the European Greens. If consensus is not reached, the Group shall vote on the requests for admission, in which case an absolute majority of members of the Group shall be required for admission to be approved. Any protocols laying down the specific procedures for such admissions shall be annexed to these Statutes.

**2.3** Membership of the Group shall end on death, resignation, termination of membership of the European Parliament during or at the end of a member's mandate, or exclusion following a decision taken by two-thirds of Group members. Exclusions shall only be possible on the basis of a written request, stating full reasons and signed by at least 10% of Group members, and must be approved by a Plenary Assembly to which all Group members have been invited, in particular the person concerned so that he/she may exercise his/her right of defence.

**2.4** At the Group's inaugural meeting at the beginning of each new term in the European Parliament, the Chairperson shall be the oldest member present until the Group elects a new **Chairperson**.

## GROUP BODIES: MEMBERSHIP AND POWERS

**3.1** The bodies of the Group are:

- The Plenary Assembly;
- The Bureau;
- The Coordinators.

**3.2** The Group's Rules of Procedure, annexed to these Statutes, set out the specific tasks and details of these organs' operation, in particular the voting procedures for the election of the Bureau and the appointment of Group members to the available posts in the European Parliament. The Group's Financial Regulation, annexed to these Statutes, lays down the financial responsibilities of these organs and the Group's budgetary procedures.

## GROUP BODIES: MEMBERSHIP AND POWERS

**3.1** The bodies of the Group are:

- The Plenary Assembly;
- The Bureau;
- The Coordinators.

**3.2** The Group's Rules of Procedure, annexed to these Statutes, set out the specific tasks and details of these organs' operation, in particular the voting procedures for the election of the Bureau and the appointment of Group members to the available posts in the European Parliament. The Group's Financial Regulation, annexed to these Statutes, lays down the financial responsibilities of these organs and the Group's budgetary procedures.

### The Plenary Assembly

**3.3** The Plenary Assembly shall consist of all members of the Group. It shall be the Group's supreme decision-making body.

**3.4** The Plenary Assembly is in particular competent to:

Discuss and take decisions on all political matters dealt with inside or outside the European Parliament;

- Elect the Co-Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of the Group;
- Appoint members of the Group to fill any vacancies set aside for the Group on parliamentary committees and subcommittees, inter-parliamentary delegations and joint assemblies, and the European Parliament's various temporary and permanent bodies;
- Introduce thematic working groups, whose members can sit on different parliamentary committees;
- Vote on the admission or exclusion of Group members, in accordance with the procedures described in Chapter II of these Statutes;
- Establish the Group's annual budget and a list of political priorities for the allocation of the budget lines for the Group's political activities, approve the statement of accounts and grant discharge in respect of the implementation of the last annual budget;
- Take decisions concerning the approval and amendment of these Statutes, the Group's
- Rules of Procedure and the Financial Regulation, and any other annexes to these Statutes;
- Appoint the Group's Secretary-General and his/her Deputy Secretary General(s).

**3.5** The Plenary Assembly may deliberate and fix the agenda whatever the number of members present. For votes the quorum shall be met when the majority of members are present or represented. Except where otherwise provided for in the Rules of Procedure, a simple majority shall be required for the decisions of the Plenary Assembly. Decisions shall be valid irrespective of the number of voters, provided that the Chairperson has not been asked before the vote begins to establish the numbers present or represented. In the absence of a quorum, the vote shall be postponed and be placed on the agenda of the next meeting.

**3.6** At the request of at least one third of the members of the Group, the Bureau shall convene an extraordinary Plenary Assembly as soon as possible and no later than four weeks after the request has been submitted (this deadline only takes into account the European Parliament's working weeks in Brussels or Strasbourg), on the basis of an agenda proposed by the signatories to the request. Members of the Group shall be informed at least one week in advance that an extraordinary Plenary Assembly is being held.

**3.7** The Group's team of salaried staff, members' assistants and representatives of the European Green Party, the Federation of Young European Greens and the European Free Alliance Party shall be invited to attend the Plenary Assembly. In specific cases, and following a decision by the Group, Plenary Assemblies may be held in camera.

### **The Bureau**

**3.8** The Bureau shall consist of two Co-Chairpersons and a maximum of seven Vice-Chairpersons. The voting procedures for their appointment shall be set out in the Rules of Procedure.

**3.9** As regards the Bureau's composition, at least half of the Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons posts shall be held by women.

**3.10** Members of the Bureau shall be elected for a period of two and a half years.

**3.11** At least one of the Vice-Chairpersons shall be appointed by the European Free Alliance Members of the European Parliament and be given the post of First Vice-Chairperson of the Group, pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding laying down the relations between the Greens and the European Free Alliance and annexed to these Statutes. When the Bureau is being re-elected, the number of European Free Alliance members of the Bureau may change – without being less than one – to better reflect the political balance in the Group.

**3.12** The Plenary Assembly shall directly appoint the Vice-Chairperson responsible for the Group's budget in the post of Treasurer.

**3.13** In addition to the tasks laid down in these Statutes, the Bureau shall entrust each of its members with responsibility for one or more specific areas. One of the Group's Co-Presidents shall be appointed by the Bureau as the authority authorised to conclude contracts for the Group. This post may subsequently be delegated to one of the Vice-Chairpersons.

**3.14** The Bureau shall be responsible for representing the Group externally and preparing for the Plenary Assemblies. It shall ensure that the Group functions properly, in particular by supervising the work of the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary General(s), and ensuring correct implementation of the decisions of the Plenary Assembly. The Bureau shall take the necessary measures to achieve this, in accordance with these Statutes and the mandates given to it by the Plenary Assembly.

**3.15** The Co-Chairpersons shall be responsible for pursuing the Group's activities and representing it in accordance with the provisions laid down in the Statutes and in the Rules of Procedure. The Co-Chairpersons shall also be responsible for coordinating, on behalf of the Group, the Group's communications with third parties, in particular through press contacts.

**3.16** The Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General(s), the Group's press attaché, the person responsible for drawing up the minutes and a representative of the salaried staff shall attend Bureau meetings, but shall not have any voting rights. The Secretary-General of the European Green Party or his/her representative shall always be invited to Bureau meetings. The Bureau may invite any other person to attend its meetings. In specific cases, and following a decision by the Bureau, Bureau meetings may be held in camera.

**3.17** The Bureau shall meet at least twice a year with all the Group coordinators to prepare annually the Group's political balance and perspectives. A joint meeting between the Bureau and the Committee of the European Green Party shall also be held at least twice a year.

**3.18** Bureau decisions that are disputed formally by at least one third of the members of the Group shall be submitted to the next Plenary Assembly. The Plenary Assembly shall then decide by a majority whether to debate and vote on the disputed points.

### **The Coordinators**

**3.19** The full and substitute members of each parliamentary committee shall appoint a coordinator from among their number for a period of two and a half years. The coordinators shall be responsible for organising the work of the Member(s) concerned and offering political guidance to the Group on all questions dealt with by the parliamentary committee for which they are responsible. The coordinators shall report at least twice a year to the Group in the Plenary Assembly on the most important issues in their area of competence.

**3.20** The coordinators may meet at their own convenience, depending on the restrictions imposed in terms of the meeting facilities provided to the Group by the European Parliament.

**3.21** At least twice a year, and following an invitation by the Bureau, the coordinators shall hold joint meetings with the Bureau to discuss the general political situation and the parliamentary strategies to be implemented to deal with that situation.

**3.22** The possibility of members to form delegations is defined in the rules of procedure.

## **CHAPTER 4**

### **THE OMBUDSPERSON**

**4.1** On a proposal by the Bureau, the Plenary Assembly shall appoint an Ombudsperson from within the Group.

**4.2** The Ombudsperson's role shall be to find ways of resolving, rapidly and fairly, disputes between the various constituents of the Group and/or between members themselves. He/she shall also intervene in disputes between Members and salaried staff or disputes between salaried staff.

**4.3** All parties to a dispute may request the intervention of the Ombudsperson and their representative. His/her role and the mediation and conflict resolution procedure resulting thereof is laid down in the «Code of Conduct for the Greens/EFA Group in the European Parliament adopted on January 16th, 2001» (annexed).

## GROUP SECRETARIAT

**5.1** The Group Secretariat shall consist of all the salaried staff, in all categories, may they be employed on posts made available to the Group by the European Parliament or may they be on posts paid for from the Group's budget.

**5.2** The Secretariat shall be responsible for all the administrative, technical and political services required to enable the Group to function properly.

**5.3** The Secretariat shall be under the supervision of the Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General(s), which shall in turn be supervised by the Bureau. The Secretariat shall ensure that all Group members are treated in an equal and friendly manner.

**5.4** The Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General(s) shall be elected by the Group pursuant to the provisions of the Rules of Procedure. At least one of the Deputy Secretary-Generals shall be appointed by members of the Group belonging to the European Free Alliance.

**5.5** The Greens/EFA Group commits to ensure full gender equality in practice at all levels.

With a view to ensuring gender equality, it adopts measures providing for specific advantages in order to make it easier for women to pursue a vocational activity or to prevent or compensate for disadvantages in professional careers. Such positive measures shall include gender-specific targets for each level of employment, including Team Leaders.

In recruitment and promotion the Greens/EFA Group will, as a rule, give priority to a female candidate in case of equal appreciation on competence and suitability for the position.

Gender-specific targets and additional measures will be included in a Gender Action Plan annexed to these Statutes.

## PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GROUP BUDGET

**6.1** Before the beginning of a new financial year, the Treasurer shall, with the assistance of the Secretary-General or his/her Deputy responsible for the Group's finances, submit a draft budget to the Bureau, which, having adopted it, shall forward it to the Plenary Assembly for amendment and/or approval. The Group's budget shall be accompanied by a list of the Group's political priorities indicating the financial resources allocated to each priority.

**6.2** In accordance with the rules in force in the European Parliament, the Co-Chairpersons and/or the authorised delegate appointed by them shall be empowered to commit expenditure on behalf of the Group within the limits of the budget approved by the Plenary Assembly and the Group's Internal Financial Rules. In accordance with the Group's Financial Rules annexed to these Statutes, the Co-Chairpersons shall remain responsible for the implementation of the annual budget.

## FINAL PROVISIONS

### 7.1 Organisation of work and deliberations within the Group

The general functioning of the Group, in particular the organisation of its work and deliberations, is described in the Rules of Procedure annexed to these Statutes.

### 7.2 Parliamentary assistants

The parliamentary assistants of the Group members play an active role in the work of the Group. In order to maintain cordial and productive social relations, a Code of Conduct, annexed to these Statutes, lays down the rights and duties of assistants and the Members who employ them. This article shall enter into force when the Code is adopted by the Group's Plenary Assembly.

### 7.3 Amendment to the Statutes

Proposals to amend these Statutes must be adopted in the Plenary Assembly by a two-thirds majority. The quorum for this amendment shall exist when at least half of the Group's members are present in person. This Plenary Assembly must be convened no later than two weeks after the formal submission of the proposal for amendment (this deadline only takes into account the European Parliament's working weeks in Brussels or Strasbourg).

### 7.4 Statutory annexes

These Statutes shall be supplemented by binding regulatory texts that the Group decides to annex to them following a decision by an absolute majority of Group members. The annexed statutory texts drawn up by the Group may be amended by an absolute majority of members at a Plenary Assembly.

By the end of 2021, the group shall adopt a Gender Action Plan aimed at incorporating a gender perspective in all group's activities, at all levels and all stages. The gender action plan shall be annexed to the statutes, monitored annually and reviewed at least every five years.

### 7.5 List of annexes

- a) Charter of the European Greens adopted on 13-14 October 2006 at the Geneva Congress;
- b) Rules of Procedures adopted on 8 November 2006;
- c) Internal Financial Rules adopted on 28 September 2005;
- d) Memorandum of Understanding between the Green Members of the European Parliament and the European Free Alliance Members of the European Parliament adopted on 8 July 1999;
- e) Agreement between the Greens/European Free Alliance and the SF Party of the Nordic Green Left signed on 1 July 2004;
- f) Code of Conduct for the Greens/Efa Group in the European Parliament adopted on 16 January 2001.

### 7.6 Entry into force

This version of the Group's Statutes repeals and replaces those of 26 April 1994 with effect of the day following their adoption.

# ANNEXES TO THE GREENS/EFA GROUP STATUTES

## Annex to the Statutes of the Green/ EFA Group Internal Rules of procedure adopted 8 November 2006 and amended according to changes to the Group's Statute on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2016

### 1. Constitution of the Group

The members (according to Article 2.1. of the Statutes) and in the case of the mid-term constitutive, other MEPs (according to Article 2.2. of the Statutes) of the Group shall meet without requiring to be convened before the beginning of each "constitutive" sitting of Parliament. At this meeting it shall convene under the presidency of the oldest member present until the two Co-Presidents have been elected. As a general rule, no debate shall be held whilst the oldest member is in the Chair with the exception of matters connected with the election of the Co-Presidents.

### 2. Election of the Bureau

The Bureau is a collegial body composed of two Co-Presidents and a maximum of 7 Vice- Presidents. At least one Vice-President is nominated by EFA members. At least half of the posts of Co-Presidents and Vice Presidents shall be allocated to women.

The Co-Presidents and the other members of the Bureau shall be elected by secret ballot. The members of the Bureau are elected for a period of two and a half years. After fresh elections to Parliament, the outgoing Bureau shall remain in office until the new Bureau has been formed.

#### ***Firstly, the two Co-Presidents are elected***

The vote for the Co-Presidents takes place in two stages. For the first post of the Co- Presidents, only female candidates are allowed. Every member has one vote and the candidate who receives the number of votes representing at least the absolute majority of the members of the group is duly appointed. If no person is elected in the first round, only the non-elected candidates with the highest two votes shall be admitted as candidates for the second round.

The candidate that receives the number of votes representing at least the absolute majority of the members of the group is duly appointed. In the case that the second round does not result in the election of a first Co-President, a third round will be called where a majority of votes cast will suffice for election as President as long as the positive votes represent at least one third of the Group. If nobody is elected, the first post remains empty (until new elections are called) and the Group proceeds to the election of the second post of Co-President. In the second step both genders can present their candidature. The voting procedures and majorities required are the same as in the first step.



### **3. Election of Vice-Presidents**

The Vice-President responsible for the budget (the treasurer) shall be the first Vice President to be elected. After the candidates for the respective posts have presented themselves, the vote takes place where every member has one vote. The candidate who has received the absolute majority of members of the Group is duly elected. If no candidate is elected in the first round, the candidates with the two most votes shall be admitted as candidates for the second round. The candidate who receives the majority of votes cast is duly appointed, as long as these represent at least one third of the group.

After the election of the Vice-President for budget and after having taken note of the nomination of the Vice-President(s) of EFA, the remaining Vice-Presidents are elected. The election of the remaining Vice-Presidents takes place in such a way as to ensure a minimum of 50% female representation. The remaining places reserved for female candidates (if any) are put to vote first, followed by the remaining places (if any). Every member has one vote per post to be elected. In the first round of both elections, the candidates who receive a number of votes equivalent to at least the absolute majority of members of the Group will be elected. If an insufficient number of persons are elected in the first round, only those non-elected candidates with the four highest results shall be admitted candidates for the second round. The candidates who receive the majority of votes cast will be appointed, as long as these represent at least one third of the group.

### **4. Functioning of the Bureau**

The Bureau shall entrust each of its members with responsibility for one or more specific areas. The Bureau needs to reach the necessary quorum in order to take decisions; this is when at least half of the members of the Bureau including a Co-President are present. In urgent cases or during holidays, the Co-Presidents take decisions and inform the other Bureau members as soon as possible.

The Bureau shall regularly inform the Group of the Bureau's decisions. The summary of decisions of Bureau meetings shall be sent to members of the Group within 3 working days.

A vote of confidence regarding the Bureau or a single member of this body can be requested in a written form signed by an absolute majority of the Group. The Bureau must ensure that this vote takes place within 4 working weeks of the Parliament in a meeting to which the invitation is circulated at least 2 working weeks in advance. If a 2/3 majority of the Group withdraws its confidence in a secret ballot, the Bureau or a member of the Bureau is deselected and the re-election for this post must be called.

### **5. Group secretariat**

The Group's Secretariat as set out in Chapter V of the Statutes is the responsibility of the Secretary General and the deputy Secretary(ies) General(s) and they are overseen by the Bureau.

The Group, with the exception of the EFA members, elects its Secretary General and the deputy Secretary(ies) General(s) in a secret ballot for a 5-year term. Candidates must obtain a majority of votes cast, which represents at least the absolute majority of Green members in the Group. The members belonging to the EFA part of the Group have the right to nominate at least one deputy Secretary General. The division of tasks between the Secretary General and the deputy Secretary(ies) General(s) is fixed by the Bureau.

A vote of confidence on the Secretary General or deputy Secretary(ies) General(s) can be requested in written form by an absolute majority of the Group. The Bureau must ensure that this vote can take place in a meeting, which will take place within 8 working weeks of the Parliament to which the invitation is circulated at least 2 working weeks in advance. If a 2/3 majority of the Group withdraws its confidence in a secret ballot, the AHCC is called to solve the contract or to assign a new task to the person(s) concerned whilst ensuring that the EP staff regulations are fully respected.

## 6. Organisation of the work

**Work program:** Every year, during the annual parliamentary days, a work program is established on the basis of the Bureau's proposals and of the contributions made by coordinators.

**Group opinion:** The Group undertakes to establish a common position on important dossiers, resolutions, amendments etc., if necessary by a vote. Within the European Parliament and its bodies, as well as outside, the Group expresses itself unanimously on all subjects for which a common position has been adopted, based on the elements resulting from the meetings. This must not in any way undermine the right of each individual deputy to sign documents in his/her own name and to express different views on all subjects if he/she does so in a personal capacity.

**Parliamentary reports:** The committee reports assigned to the various deputies of the Group will be the responsibility of the member in question.

**Speaking Time:** The speaking time granted to the Group will be used to express the Group's position, whenever a common position has been established. The members belonging to a minority position of the Group have the right to express themselves using a fraction of the speaking time allotted to the Group, according to a distribution formula established by the Bureau of the Group. The allocation of speaking time is managed by the Secretary General or by a deputy Secretary General under the supervision of the Bureau.

## 7. Voting Rules

Except where otherwise provided for in these rules of procedure, a simple majority shall be required for the decisions of the Group and its various bodies.

Voting by proxy shall be permitted, but no one may be appointed proxy for more than one Member. Proxy voting has to be notified in written form to the Secretary-General.

In addition to the case provided in these rules, votes shall be held by secret ballot if requested by a third of the Members of the Group present or represented before voting begins.

Votes on group representatives for internal or external positions shall be announced at least 5 working days before the vote itself. Candidates must present a written candidacy and be available for questioning by Group members in a Group meeting. Votes on persons shall in principle be held by secret ballot. If there is only one candidate per position, the group may decide to appoint her/him by acclamation, unless one member demands a secret ballot.

Important decisions on the functioning and policy of the group shall be taken in two stages: First, the proposal is being presented and a deadline for amendments is given. At the second stage, the amendments are voted and the final decision is taken. Exceptions can be made if the urgency can be justified and the group decides by majority vote to follow the emergency procedure.

Any 5 members can demand a discussion and/or formal vote on a voting list or parts thereof. 4

If during a vote, the number of abstentions exceeds the total of the «for» plus the «against» votes, the vote is considered as null and no decision will be taken.

Split votes and separate votes can be requested by any one member.

The term of office of the elected positions of members in the Group, including the appointment of Group members to the available posts in the parliamentary Committees and Subcommittees shall be two and half

years and shall be renewable if not otherwise stated in these rules or imposed by the rules of the EP.

Should a vacancy arise during this period, the successor shall be elected for the unexpired period of his or her predecessor's term of office.

The Greens/EFA Group strives to achieve gender balance in all its representations. Unless stated otherwise, women will be given priority until the election of one more woman would mean that the ratio of women would exceed 50%. The preceding sentence does not apply to the election of single posts, or the appointment of Group members to the available posts in the parliamentary Committees and Subcommittees.

#### **8. Relationship between Greens and EFA**

The relation between the two components of the group, the Greens and the European Free Alliance, is governed by their Protocol of understanding annexed to the Statutes.

