



Statutes of the Parliamentary Group The Greens/European Free Alliance in the European Parliament

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:

‘The Greens/European Free Alliance’ in English;
‘Les Verts/Alliance Libre Européenne’ in French;
‘Die Grünen/Europäische Freie Allianz’ in German;
‘Зелените/Европейски свободен алианс’ in Bulgarian;
‘Los Verdes/Alianza Libre Europea’ in Spanish;
‘Zelení/Evropská svobodná aliance’ in Czech;
‘De Grønne/Den Europæiske Frie Alliance’ in Danish;
‘Rohelised/Euroopa Vabaliit’ in Estonian;
‘Πράσινοι/Ευρωπαϊκή Ελεύθερη Συμμαχία’ in Greek;
‘Na Glasaigh/An Saor-Chomhghuaillíocht Eorpach’ in Irish;
‘Zeleni/Europski slobodni savez’ in Croatian;
‘I Verdi/Alleanza libera europea’ in Italian;
‘Zaļie/Eiropas Brīvā apvienība’ in Latvian;
‘Žalieji/Euopos laisvasis aljansas’ in Lithuanian;

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‘Zöldek/Európai Szabad Szövetség’ in Hungarian;
‘Hodor/Alleanza Hielisa Ewropea’ in Maltese;
‘De Groenen/Vrije Europese Alliantie’ in Dutch;
‘Zieloni/Wolne Przymierze Europejskie’ in Polish;
‘Os Verdes/Aliança Livre Europeia’ in Portuguese;
‘Verzii/Aliaŋța Liberă Europeană’ in Romanian;
‘Zelení/Európska slobodná aliancia’ in Slovak;
‘Zeleni/Evropska svobodna zveza’ in Slovenian;
‘Vihreät/Euroopan vapaa allianssi’ in Finnish;
‘De Gröna/Europeiska fria alliansen’ in Swedish;
‘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;
‘Os Verdes/Alianza Libre Europea’ in Galician;
‘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 binding statutory texts that the Group decides to annex to them. These annexed statutory texts 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, 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 who join the Group.

Chapter II

Membership of the Group

2.1 The Group shall consist of Group Members elected to the European Parliament on the lists supported by the European Green Party and Group Members 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 concluded between these two bodies and annexed to these

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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 and Members of the EFA shall decide.

2.2 Other Members of the European Parliament may become Group Members 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 a majority of Group Members shall be required for admission to be approved. The rules laying down the specific procedures for such admissions may 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 the Plenary Assembly to which all Group Members have been invited, in particular the person concerned so that they may exercise the right to be heard.

2.4 The Members referred to in Article 2.1 and, in the case of a mid-term constitutive meeting, other Members referred to in Article 2.2, shall meet, without requiring to be convened, before the beginning of each constitutive sitting of the European Parliament. At this meeting, the chair shall be the oldest member present until the two Co-Chairpersons have been elected. As a general rule, no debate shall be held whilst the oldest member is chairing, with the exception of matters connected with the election of the Co-Chairpersons.

Chapter III

Group bodies: membership and powers

3.1 The bodies of the Group are: the Plenary Assembly, the Bureau and the Coordinators.

3.2 The Internal Financial Rules, annexed to these Statutes, lay down the financial responsibilities of these organs and the Group's budgetary procedures.

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3.3 Group Members may form delegations and groupings in accordance with applicable European Parliament's rules.

The Plenary Assembly

3.4 The Plenary Assembly shall consist of all Group Members. It shall be the Group's supreme decision-making body.

3.5 The Plenary Assembly is in particular competent to:

- 1) discuss and take decisions on all political matters dealt with inside or outside the European Parliament;
- 2) elect the Co-Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of the Group;
- 3) appoint Group Members to fill any vacancies set aside for the Group on parliamentary committees and subcommittees, interparliamentary delegations and joint assemblies, and the European Parliament's various temporary and permanent bodies;
- 4) introduce thematic working groups, whose members can sit on different parliamentary committees;
- 5) vote on the admission or exclusion of Group Members;
- 6) 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;
- 7) take decisions concerning the approval and amendment of these Statutes, the Group's Internal Financial Rules, and any other binding statutory texts to these Statutes;
- 8) appoint the Group's Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General(s).

3.6 The Plenary Assembly may deliberate and fix the agenda whatever the number of Group Members present. For votes, the quorum shall be met when a majority of Group Members are present or represented. Decisions shall be valid irrespective of the number of voters, provided that the chair 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 placed on the agenda of the next meeting.

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3.7 Except where otherwise provided for in these Statutes, a majority of the votes cast shall be required for the decisions of the Plenary Assembly. Abstentions are not considered as part of the votes cast.

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

3.9 In addition to the cases otherwise provided for in these Statutes, votes shall be held by secret ballot if requested, before voting begins, by one third of the Group Members present or represented.

3.10 Votes on Group representatives for internal or external positions shall be announced at least five working days before the vote itself. Candidates must present a written candidacy and be available for questioning by Group Members in the Plenary Assembly. Votes on persons shall be held by secret ballot. Where the number of candidates equals, or is lower than the number of vacant positions, the Group may decide to appoint the candidates by acclamation if the required gender balance is met, unless one Member demands a secret ballot.

If one vacant position must be filled, the candidate who receives a number of votes representing at least a majority of Group Members shall be elected. If no candidate is elected in the first round, only the two non-elected candidates having obtained the highest number of votes in the first round shall be admitted to the second round. The candidate who receives a number of votes representing at least a majority of Group Members shall be elected in the second round. If the second round does not result in an election, a third round shall be held with the one non-elected candidate having obtained the highest number of votes in the second round. In the third round the candidate who receives a majority of votes cast shall be elected, provided that the votes in favour represent at least one third of the Group Members. If no candidate is elected, the position shall remain vacant until new elections are called.

If several vacant positions must be filled, every Group Member has one vote per position. The candidates who receive a number of votes representing at least a majority of Group Members shall be elected. If an insufficient number of persons are elected in the first round, only the number of non-elected candidates having obtained the highest number of votes in the first round, which corresponds to twice the number of positions to be filled, shall be admitted as candidates for the second round. The candidates who receive a number of votes representing at least a

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majority of Group Members shall be elected in the second round. If an insufficient number of persons are elected in the second round, a third round shall be held with the number of non-elected candidates having obtained the highest number of votes in the second round, which corresponds to the number of positions to be filled. In the third round the candidates who receive a majority of votes cast shall be elected, provided that the votes in favour represent at least one third of the Group Members. If no candidate is elected, the position shall remain vacant until new elections are called.

3.11 The Group shall strive to achieve gender balance in all its representations. Unless otherwise stated, women shall be given priority until the election of one more woman would mean that the ratio of women would exceed 50%. The preceding sentence shall not apply to the election of single positions, or to the appointment of Group Members to the available positions in the parliamentary committees and subcommittees.

3.12 Important decisions on the functioning and policy of the Group shall, in principle, be taken in two stages: first, the proposal shall be presented and a deadline for amendments fixed; second, the amendments shall be voted and the final decision taken. Exceptions may be made where urgency is justified and the Plenary Assembly decides to follow an emergency procedure. Any five Group Members may demand a discussion and/or formal vote on a voting list or parts thereof. If, during a vote, the number of abstentions exceeds the total of the votes cast, the vote shall be considered null and no decision shall be taken. Split votes and separate votes may be requested by any Group Member.

3.13 At the request of at least one third of the Group Members, 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 taking into account only the European Parliament's working weeks in Brussels or Strasbourg, on the basis of an agenda proposed by the signatories to the request. Group Members shall be informed at least one week in advance that an extraordinary Plenary Assembly is being held.

3.14 The Group's team of salaried staff, Group 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 proposal of the Bureau or on a decision by the Plenary Assembly, Plenary Assemblies may be held in camera.

The Bureau

3.15 The Bureau shall consist of two Co-Chairpersons and a maximum of nine Vice-Chairpersons. The Plenary Assembly shall define the number of Vice-Chairpersons by a two-thirds majority of Group Members. Such decision shall remain in force until changed or revoked by the same majority.

The number of Vice-Chairpersons has to be uneven. At least half of the Co-Chairpersons' positions shall be held by women. At least half of the Members of the Bureau shall be women.

3.16 Members of the Bureau shall be elected for a period of two and a half years. After the elections to the European Parliament, the outgoing Bureau shall remain in office until the new Bureau has been formed. Where a vacancy arises, the successor shall be elected for the unexpired period of their predecessor's term of office. Terms of office shall be renewable unless otherwise provided in these Statutes or imposed by the rules of the European Parliament. Article 3.10 applies to the elections of the members of the Bureau.

3.17 The election of the Co-Chairpersons shall take place separately for each position to be filled. For the first position of Co-Chairperson, only women shall be admissible. For the second position of Co-Chairperson, candidates of any gender shall be admissible.

3.18 The Vice-Chairperson responsible for the Group's budget shall be elected first and shall hold the position of Treasurer.

3.19 At least one of the Vice-Chairpersons shall be nominated and appointed by the European Free Alliance Members and be given the position 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. The number of European Free Alliance members of the Bureau may increase to better reflect the political balance in the Group.

3.20 After the election of the Treasurer, and after the Plenary Assembly has taken note of the appointment of the Vice-Chairperson or Vice-Chairpersons of the European Free Alliance, the remaining Vice-Chairpersons shall be elected in such a way as to ensure a minimum of 50% women representation in the Bureau.

3.21 Taking into account the numerical strength of the Bureau, the number of vacant positions and the existing gender balance, the chair announces the minimum number of women to be

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elected as Vice-Chairpersons. If applicable, the positions reserved for women are put to vote first, followed by the remaining positions.

3.22 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.

3.23 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 decisions of the Plenary Assembly. The Bureau shall meet the quorum required to take decisions where at least half of its members, including one Co-Chairperson, are present. In urgent cases or during holidays, the Co-Chairpersons may take decisions and shall inform the other members of the Bureau as soon as possible. Bureau decisions shall, except where otherwise provided for, be taken by a majority of votes cast.

3.24 The Co-Chairpersons shall be responsible for pursuing the Group's activities and representing the Group in accordance with the provisions laid down in these Statutes. 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.

3.25 The Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General(s), other members of the Management Team, 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 their representative shall always be invited to Bureau meetings. The legal adviser shall be invited to Bureau meetings where relevant. 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.

3.26 The Bureau shall regularly inform the Group of its decisions. A summary of the decisions of Bureau meetings shall be sent to the Group Members within five working days.

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.

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

3.28 A vote of confidence regarding the Bureau as a whole or an individual member thereof may be requested in writing by a majority of Group Members. The Bureau shall ensure that such a vote takes place within four weeks, this deadline taking into account only the European Parliament's working weeks in Brussels or Strasbourg, in a meeting for which the invitation is circulated at least two weeks in advance. If a majority of Group Members withdraws its confidence in a secret ballot, the Bureau, or the member of the Bureau concerned, shall be deemed removed from office and election for the relevant positions shall be called.

The Coordinators

3.29 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 members 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 Plenary Assembly on the most important issues in their area of competence.

3.30 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.

3.31 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.

Chapter IV

Group Secretariat

4.1 The Group Secretariat shall consist of all the salaried staff, in all categories, whether employed on posts made available to the Group by the European Parliament or on posts paid from the Group's budget. The Bureau shall adopt the organisation chart of the Group Secretariat.

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It shall do so at the beginning of each mandate, on a proposal from the Management Team, and may revise the organisation chart at any time thereafter, following the same procedure.

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

4.3 The Secretariat shall be under the supervision of the Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General(s), who shall in turn be supervised by the Bureau. The Secretariat shall ensure that all Group Members are treated in an equal and friendly manner. The Management Team is composed of the Secretary-General, the Deputy Secretary-General(s) and the Heads of Units who hold management responsibilities.

4.4 The Secretary-General shall exercise the powers conferred on the authority authorised to conclude contracts of employment under the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants of the European Union in respect of the relevant staff in accordance with the applicable legal acts. Such powers may be delegated to Deputy Secretary-General(s).

4.5 The Plenary Assembly, with the exception of the Group Members belonging to the European Free Alliance, shall elect the Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General(s) by secret ballot for a term of five years. Candidates must obtain a majority, representing at least a majority of Members belonging to the Green component of the Group. The Group Members belonging to the European Free Alliance component of the Group shall have the right to nominate at least one Deputy Secretary-General. The division of tasks between the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General(s) shall be fixed by the Bureau. A vote of confidence on the Secretary-General or Deputy Secretary-General(s) may be requested in writing by a majority of Group Members. The Bureau shall ensure that such a vote can take place in a meeting to be held within four weeks, this deadline taking into account only the European Parliament's working weeks in Brussels or Strasbourg, and for which the invitation is circulated at least two weeks in advance. If a two-thirds majority of the Group Members withdraws its confidence in a secret ballot, the Bureau shall take necessary steps, such as reassignment of duties, whilst ensuring that the applicable legal acts are fully respected.

4.6 The Greens/EFA Group commits to ensure full gender equality and broad diversity in practice at all levels without discrimination. The Greens/EFA Group may adopt positive measures to ensure equality in pursuing a vocational activity or to prevent or compensate for disadvantages

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in professional careers. Such positive measures may include gender-specific targets for each level of employment, including the Management Team. In recruitment and promotion, the Greens/EFA Group shall, as a rule, give priority to women in case of equal appreciation of competence and suitability for the position.

Chapter V

Preparation and implementation of the Group budget

5.1 Before the beginning of a new financial year, the Treasurer shall, with the assistance of the Secretary-General or their 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.

5.2 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 Internal Financial Rules, the Co-Chairpersons shall remain responsible for the implementation of the annual budget.

Chapter VI

Organisation of work

6.1 The organisation of work and deliberations within the Group shall follow the rules and decisions adopted by the Group in accordance with these Statutes. The Group shall endeavour to establish a common position on important files, resolutions and amendments, where necessary by a vote. Within the European Parliament and its bodies, as well as outside, the Group shall express itself unanimously on all subjects for which a common position has been adopted, based on the elements resulting from the meetings. This shall not undermine the right of each individual Group Member to sign documents in their own name and to express different views on all subjects if he or she does so in a personal capacity. Committee reports assigned to the Group Members shall remain the responsibility of the member in question. The speaking time granted to the Group shall be used to express the Group's position whenever a common position has been established. Group Members belonging to a minority position within the Group shall have the

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right to express themselves using a fraction of the speaking time allocated to the Group, according to a distribution formula established by the Bureau. The allocation of speaking time shall be managed by the Secretary-General or by a Deputy Secretary-General under the supervision of the Bureau.

6.2 The parliamentary assistants of the Group Members play an active role in the work of the Group.

6.3 The behavioural and ethical standards to foster a safe and healthy working environment shall be laid down in the Code of Conduct of Group Members.

Chapter VII

Final provisions

7.1 Proposals to amend these Statutes must be adopted in the Plenary Assembly by a two-thirds majority of Group Members. The quorum for this amendment shall exist when at least half of the Group 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 taking into account only the European Parliament's working weeks in Brussels or Strasbourg.

7.2 These Statutes shall be supplemented by binding statutory texts that the Group decides to annex to them following a decision by a majority of Group Members. The annexed statutory texts drawn up by the Group may be amended by a majority of Group Members.

7.3 The annexed statutory texts are:

- 1) Charter of the European Greens;
- 2) Protocol of Understanding between the Members of the Green Group in the European Parliament & Members of the European Free Alliance;
- 3) Relationship agreement between the Greens/EFA Group and the European Pirate Party;
- 4) Internal Financial Rules;
- 5) Code of Conduct of the Greens/EFA MEPs;

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6) Greens/EFA Policy on handling inappropriate behaviour in the workplace including psychological and sexual harassment, violence and discrimination.

7.4 This version of the Group's Statutes repeals and replaces those of 8 November 2006 (as amended) with effect from the day following its adoption.