

A Green New Deal for Europe

Alternattiva Demokratika – The Green Party’s Electoral Programme for the European Parliament Election 2009

For a New Green Deal

“For us as Greens the current economic, food and ecological crises are all interrelated and unless and until the EU leaders recognise this and act urgently to counter their underlying causes, they will not be able to offer anything other than superficial and short-term solutions. That is why we advocate a "Green New Deal" which would both strengthen the economy and combat climate change. The move towards a low-carbon economy must not be seen as a threat but rather as an economic opportunity which could lead to the creation of millions of jobs in the renewables sector. EU leaders will be failing their citizens and future generations if they do not seize that opportunity” - European Green Party spokesperson Ulrike Lunacek

1. A Third Voice for Malta in the European Parliament.

1.1 At the moment, Malta is represented in only 2 out of the 10 political groups in the European Parliament.. Having an AD MEP would give Malta leverage in a third political group, the Green group, thus giving Malta a louder voice in the European Parliament, with influence in another large political grouping.

2. For a European Immigration Policy

2.1 The European Greens are the Group in the European Parliament which is lobbying most strongly for responsibility sharing, whilst Right-wing parties are against this. In this respect, the European Greens are lobbying for relevant changes in the Dublin Treaty, and have also called for more attention to be given to small islands and their needs and interests regarding this issue.

2.2 AD will insist that the EU does more as regards responsibility sharing.

2.3 AD believes that Malta should give due importance to the humanitarian realities of immigrants, whilst also having a clear integration policy that matches immigrants’ rights with responsibilities, always in respect of the law.

2.4 AD will promote more dialogue between the North and South and for a Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, which is ultimately in everyone’s interest.

3. For an Ecological Europe

3.1 The European Greens have real potential of making a difference in ecological matters, and their experience is the best guarantee for results.

3.2 AD will work to strengthen environmental legislation which protects and enhances our quality of life and insist that Malta complies with EU environmental legislation, particularly in issues relating to MEPA, public transport and clean/renewable energy, clean, breathable and safe air and noise pollution.

3.3 AD will also promote practices that protect people's health and safety, in areas such as food and agricultural policy, transport and energy generation.

3.4 AD will insist on the protection of the sea – as a common heritage of us all and as one of the few natural resources available in Malta for recreation for the majority of the population.

4. For a Social Europe

4.1 The European Greens are at the forefront of social policies that aim for a more equal and inclusive society. AD will insist that better job opportunities and work conditions are created in Europe and Malta. The Greens are promoting the idea of a global Green Deal which will create millions of jobs in areas such as manufacturing, tourism, services, IT, research, alternative energy, transport, agriculture and waste management. It is estimated that 5 million Green jobs can be created within the European Union. The United Nations, Trade Unions and Employers' Associations within the EU and Malta are supporting the call for creation of Green Jobs.

4.2 AD will promote policies to counter the negative effects of the current economic crisis, in order to protect groups such as senior citizens, young families and workers at risk of losing their employment.

4.3 AD will promote policies against insecure job contracts, precarious work and exploitation which are affecting various categories of workers, including young, ageing, female workers and workers with family responsibilities.

4.4 AD will promote policies for more female participation in employment. This requires social policies which promote the work-life balance, where men and women actively participate in both employment as well as in family life and caring roles.

4.5 AD will promote policies in favour of green jobs, which offer employment opportunities at various levels in various new economic sectors. AD will also promote policies in favour of fair trade and co-operative structures.

4.6 AD will promote policies which will protect vulnerable social groups and groups requiring special attention. The protection of human rights is essential in this regard.

5. For a Europe of Consumer Rights

5.1 The European Greens promote the protection of consumers' rights in various products ranging from food to childrens' toys.

5.2 AD will take all possible measures to ensure that consumers' rights are protected in Malta.

5.3 AD will support the current EU commission initiative to remove double registration tax on motor vehicles.

5.4 AD has opened a court case in order to recover the amount of VAT on registration duty imposed on cars bought in Malta and is asking the Maltese Government to refund the VAT collected in the period 1 May 2004 – 31 December 2008 from all aggrieved Maltese and resident non-Maltese EU citizens.

5.5 AD will promote EU legislation that favours clean and efficient public transport systems and advanced clean technology for cars and motorcycles while working for higher standards for heavy vehicles. Incentivizing public transport and clean transport such as bicycles will lead to a better quality of life, better health and increase the disposable income of all of us.

6. For a Europe of Family Values

6.1 AD will promote policies for stronger families. Apart from traditional family forms, different forms of cohabitating couples should be protected. This should be done through the recognition of registered partnerships, including formations such as those in cohabitation and separated persons, people tied by family links (e.g. mother-daughter) and same-sex partners.

6.2 The European Greens promote the protection of different family forms through inclusive social policy.

6.3 In the current situation, where divorce may be obtained from other countries even by Maltese citizens, AD will promote the legislation of divorce in Malta, in order that persons whose marriage failed and who want to form new family may form a new family should they desire to do so.

6.4 AD will promote the harmonisation of EU family policies in areas such as child care, parental leave and work-life balance, to help bring about stronger families.

7. For a Europe of Culture and Innovation

7.1 The European Greens promote cultural values based on respect and diversity.

7.2 AD stresses the importance of creativity, innovation and research.

7.3 AD will promote further investment in human resources and culture..

7.4 AD believes that the universality of shared moral values and the diversity of cultural expression such as linguistic diversity, are essential for European integration and harmonisation.

7.5 AD believes that digital rights are basic civil rights and that the right to privacy and to protect personal data, free speech in a free internet and the rights to share on the internet need to be protected.

8. For a European Gozo

8.1 The European Greens stress the importance of small communities and small islands as living examples of ecological and social sustainability for the creation of employment, quality tourism and strong communities.

8.2 AD believes that Gozo can truly become an ecological island based on ecological, social and economic sustainability

8.3 Alternattiva Demokratika will push so that the island-region of Gozo can overcome the problems of competitiveness and lack of employment.

8.4 AD will tap all possible European sources to ensure a sustainable tourist, manufacturing, services, IT and agricultural and transport industries in Gozo.

8.5 AD will push for sustainable proposals for key natural spots in Gozo such as Fõndoq, Ramla, Ta' Ċenċ and Dwejra.

9. For a Europe of Democracy and Civil Society

9.1 AD will promote a stronger civil society in Europe and the Mediterranean, to help enhance democracy, dialogue and peace.

9.2 The European Greens stress the positive role of NGOs, trade unions and other civil society organisations which promote social justice, equality, ecological sustainability, gender equality, sustainable development, fair trade, workers' rights and minority rights.