

MANIFESTO FOR the ELECTION OF the EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT – 8 June 2024

It's in your interest to go Green.



Dear Maltese, Gozitan and European citizens,

It's in your interest to use your vote in the election for Members of the European Parliament. By voting **GREEN** you are passing on a strong message. You are passing on a message that you want a truly modern country. A country that improves people's quality of life. What does quality of life mean? It means caring for the open spaces effectively, it means putting an end to the pollution that is poisoning the air and killing us. It means using natural resources better and ensuring that we continue to build a Europe of solidarity and equality. Stopping the plundering of resources is in the interest of us all.

It's in your interest that with your vote you support those who want to seriously address the top challenge that Malta, the European Union and the whole world are facing: **the climate emergency**. Our policy, that of building a greener society, means ultimately **facing injustices and inequalities in our society**, even those resulting from environmental impacts. **Inaction today means it is going to be more difficult to make decisions going forward.**

It's in your interest to vote for European investment for **renewable energy**. This means stability in prices, clean air, and quality work locally. It means that our economy will no longer depend entirely on foreign and unstable sources through the use of dirty energy.

It's in your interest to **fight pollution**. This means ensuring multinationals are no longer subsidised to produce low quality food, but that the necessary subsidies, and technical and scientific assistance go to small local farmers.

It's in your interest to vote for a European **Green and Social Deal**, ensuring investment in strong public services. To ensure European investment in **affordable housing**, comfortable energy-saving housing, and clean public transport that better suits people's needs, locally and across the European Union. Investment in public services means that everyday life is affordable.

Together with our fellow Greens across Europe we want a **European investment plan in green industries**. Together we want guarantees of a more **democratic, transparent and representative Europe** where everyone's rights are safeguarded and where respect for each other is the foundation of an **inclusive and healthy society**.

Protecting the climate. It's in your interest.

It's in your interest that the European Union strengthens the **Green and Social Deal**.

It's in your interest that Malta is at the forefront of moving towards a better quality of life for you, for us and for our children.

It's in your interest to **fight the effects of climate change** on Malta, because fields are becoming desert, land is drying up, storms are getting harsher, the sea is dying, and heat is becoming more extreme. The risks of flooding and rising sea levels, which will destroy coastal infrastructure, are increasing drastically. Our region is suffering from the effects of climate change more than other regions. Studies confirm that **the Mediterranean is warming 20% faster than the rest of the world average**. The region has already surpassed an average temperature increase of 1.5 degrees Celsius. This increase has serious effects on us, and with further increases in the average temperature the situation is going from bad to worse. It is in our interest to roll up our sleeves for a just transition.

It's in your interest that the European Union acts to **reduce carbon emissions** quickly. We Greens work and insist on moving on the path **towards net zero-emissions**. We want to see revenues from taxation, that force multinationals to move quickly towards clean transport and industry, distributed fairly. The funds generated should finance the **social and ecological transition** in the transport, agricultural and industrial sectors in countries most affected by climate change such as Malta.

Whatever is said during the election campaign, the reality is that **if we do not respect the limits that nature itself imposes on us, we will end up badly**. It is in your interest to vote to protect the land we live on and the sea around us, it is in the interest of the well-being of all of us today and tomorrow.

Clean and renewable energy in Malta, for Malta. It's in your interest.

It's in your interest to use renewable energy that unites the whole European continent. It's in your interest because **clean and renewable energy is the key** to an economic future that fulfils our needs, and ensures our health and quality of life. **Malta ranks last in renewable energy usage in the EU**. We want to work hard so that **50% of the energy we use will be renewable energy by 2030**. We are late because of the neglect of Maltese governments, one after the other.

It's in your interest to work towards this target as this will increase the opportunities of technical and manual work, work in research and innovation, including in the use of technology such as artificial intelligence to increase energy

efficiency. It's in your interest to stop exporting money out of Malta to import polluting fossil fuels. Fuel subsidies must be phased-out and investment should instead be made in the jobs of the present and the future, and in the technology that improves our lives. Across the European Union renewable energy saved the economy and families 100 billion Euros between 2021 and 2023. In Malta the government chose to subsidise waste, and our tax money is being used to support the use of fossil fuels.

By 2040 we want energy all over the European Union to come from renewable sources: wind, solar, geothermal and other renewable sources.

It's in your interest to have a habitable planet.

We want clean energy systems, owned by our communities, managed by cooperatives. It's in your interest to have solar panels on every roof in our country. It's in your interest that industrial areas have solar panels and even wind turbines and clean energy storage systems through batteries. It's in your interest that all industrial aid is clearly linked to a transition towards clean energy use and energy efficiency.

It's in your interest that the emissions of those living in luxury life are stopped. An example of this luxury are private jets. **There should be no incentive for private jets;** rather they should be banned as soon as possible. Billionaires should not be exempt from their responsibilities to the rest of the community, the country, the European Union and the world.

Clean air for our health. It's in your interest.

The vision of "green hydrogen" is being used as an excuse to remain dependent on gas from fossil sources. The reality is that there are great risks and costs in green hydrogen, while renewable energy from wind, solar and other sources are already highly effective and economically viable technologies. The development of green hydrogen should be retained for intensive industries such as steel, cargo ships and other similar applications.

We support the use of **fast railways** on the European continent, because although we still need to travel from Malta to the continent by other means, connections between European cities still make travelling easier when short distance air trips are banned.

It's in your interest to work for a **European Social Fund** focusing on **adaptation to climate change** and the natural disasters it brings. Your vote will ensure that there will be financing for the strengthening of Civil Protection.

There are those who want to prioritise the economy above all else, whatever the effects it may have on you. But we want **Malta to be pollution-free**. Because it's in your interest for your health, and it's in your interest also economically. It is estimated that around 300,000 people die every year from polluted air throughout the EU. It's therefore in your interest to have **clean energy and transport**. It's in your interest that the use of petrol and diesel is banned. It is **our children who pay the price of pollution** as they are the most susceptible to the pollution caused by these dirty fuels. It's in your interest to have air quality standards improve and be applicable everywhere, without exceptions.

Open spaces. It's in your interest.

From birds to bees, from woods, and forests, to wilderness and sand dunes, **nature is the basis of life on our planet**. Everything is linked together. Even we in our country should safeguard biodiversity and natural beauty – or rather the little that is left. It's in your interest for your mental health. It's in your interest because we depend on pollinators for natural food. It's in your interest because **when we destroy nature, we are destroying ourselves**. Around one million species worldwide are threatened with extinction due to damage done to ecosystems, the random use of pesticides, and climate change.

We support spending 10% of the EU budget on nature protection targets as from 2026. The fight against climate change is linked to **nature restoration**. Because it's in your interest, we work in favour of nature, unlike the conservative and right-wing forces which care very little about this destruction, that they are causing.

We must ensure that the management of natural areas is carried out professionally, and that afforestation projects are carried out properly, by technical people and trained scientists. We have seen too much destruction due to projects carried out haphazardly. We need professional greening of our roads to make them more attractive to people and to reduce the heat in summer. It's in your interest that streets and squares are properly greened. It's in your interest that the European Union no longer finances roads that ignore and fail to prioritise pedestrians, cyclists, and sustainable mobility.

Sustainable farming. It's in your interest.

The European Union's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) does not serve our interests, but the interests of the agro-industry and multinational food companies. **Malta and Europe need a CAP that supports the necessary changes in food production**. We can do this by supporting the small farmer more than we are doing to date. The truth is that environmental laws and regulations are needed for

genuine farmers because it is them who have to face drought, heat and sudden and destructive weather changes.

It's in your interest that standards in farming are protected. Shame on those who want to lower them. Instead of lowering standards, there should be increased regulation to stop the importation of cheaper agricultural imports from non-EU countries, which not only are of a lower standard but do not follow EU rules. There should be more and more effective technical and scientific assistance to farmers. Agriculture needs public support globally, but this support should go to those who need it, the real farmer, and should be geared for the good of society.

Unfortunately, major commercial interests in the EU are taking 80% of subsidies across the European Union. It is shameful to see that **the anger of genuine farmers is being ignored** by those who brought them into the situation they are in, such as the price-fixing favouring big industries and agro-industrial monopolies. These monopolies certainly do not believe in the concept of '*small is beautiful*'. Whoever defends these lobbies is defending pollution, disease, the destruction of landscapes and the destruction of our country in the name of enormous profits.

Genuine farmers in the European Union, including in Malta, should have a **decent income** from their hard work. Produce from the local market – the “zero kilometres” concept that fresh food should go to the consumer closest to where it is grown – should have an advantage over imported and processed food. We must ensure that there is no unfair competition from products that do not respect our same standards. **Subsidies should go to genuine farmers** to invest heavily in agro-ecological methods. Science and technology and modern agronomy should be at the service of people, not at the service of huge profits at the expense of the small-hold farmers.

It's in your interest that subsidies guarantee social justice for those who grow fresh food, and care for the land, not those who destroy it with a chemical soup, overproduction, and unchecked pesticide usage to swallow up more subsidies. It's in your interest that the European Union does not continue to subsidise the huge industrial animal farms. Aid should only go to those with high animal welfare standards.

A healthy and clean sea. It's in your interest.

Our seas are full of plastic and industrial pollution. It's in your interest that the European Union takes serious steps so that sea pollution stops, both for your health but also because for us residents in the Mediterranean, the sea is also a means of recreation.

We work to **end industrial fishing in the EU** and for the Common Fisheries Policy to encourage fishing with a low impact on the seas. The 18 sites comprising Malta's marine Natura 2000 network need to be truly protected. Ironically in Malta the use of sea craft and fishing is allowed around conservation areas next to wrecks for diving. Thus, it's in your interest that the sea is effectively protected.

Affordable housing. It's in your interest.

A decent roof over our heads is a right, not luxury. Affordable housing needs to be the priority in land use policy. Unfortunately, the priority now is to sustain speculation.

The lease contract period should be prolonged, and rentals should be linked to an index that does not allow exaggerated rental rates. We work for a European plan for affordable housing to sustain investment in decent and affordable housing.

Investment at EU level means that the private market would have to compete with reasonable prices. **Short-term leases should be discouraged**, and speculation should be curbed through penalties for those who keep properties empty for long periods of time.

Quality education. It's in your interest.

Although formal education is largely a competence of the individual member states of the European Union, the EU should help member states to **overcome inequalities in education**. Education should make the necessary changes in our society, and improve our quality of life through better knowledge of science in conjunction with the strengthening of education in the fields of culture. New jobs in the green industry require well-trained people.

It's in your interest to increase cooperation between schools, technical and professional colleges, and for the strengthening of cooperation between Maltese and European universities. It is in the interest of children, young people and all residents in Malta to share their experiences and knowledge with colleagues from other countries. Diversity, cooperation, interest in our different languages, culture and critical thinking, and the sharing of ideas strengthen us.

It's in your interest to **strengthen the Erasmus + programme**. Equality requires Erasmus grants to enable the **participation of all**, regardless of the economic means of students or their parents.

Unpaid internships are abuse. We work to ban unpaid internships in the EU.

Better health services. It's in your interest.

A European Health Union ensures that every state has access to affordable medicines and proper, modern and effective treatment. This should apply to all aspects of healthcare, particularly in the treatment of cancer and rare diseases.

It's in your interest that the **purchase of certain medicines**, particularly specialised ones, **takes place at European level**. Purchase of specialised medicines is particularly costly for small countries like Malta, so procurement on a European level ensures that our country's health service has access to specialised medicine at the best prices possible, and that ultimately the patient has access to the necessary care.

It's in your interest that the European Union is organised for health emergencies and in case of natural disasters.

Mental health should be given more attention. A European mental health plan should include access to nature and recreation, as well as cultural and creative activities.

A social Europe. It's in your interest.

Often, as the European Union started out as a free market Union, the market and competition take priority over other aspects. **The Green and Social Pact that we Greens work for is a guarantee of a good quality of life for all.** It's in your interest to have renewable energy sources, transport that does not pollute, investment in decent housing, and healthy and nutritious food for you, for your health, for our children. It's in your interest that education and healthcare and services for the elderly are of high quality.

Workers deserve good and decent income. It is unacceptable that those who work remain poor, as this means nothing but abuse and exploitation. The Greens in the European Parliament have advocated for the EU to establish a framework for the minimum income to become a dignified and decent income. We must push for the minimum income in Malta to become an income with which you can live decently, that is *a living income*.

Transparency in salaries paid by various companies, businesses and organisations is essential to end wage abuse and so that workers are informed about which companies are paying decent wages and which are not. Thanks to our Green partners in the European Union, by 2026, companies in Malta will have to publish the difference in wages between the highest earners and the other workers in their company. It's in your interest that there is more transparency regarding wages, so we will work to protect these achievements and make sure they work properly.

We need to work so that platform workers have all the rights that every other worker has, not only the minimum wage, but a right to rest days, sick leave, protection from hazardous conditions at work and all working conditions to which workers are entitled.

It's in your interest that **taxation on polluters and the ultra rich increases** so that the tax on labour can be reduced.

The abusive practice of bringing foreign workers to Malta for ill-paid jobs must end. The working conditions for these people must be regulated and employers must provide decent and standard accommodation for temporary workers, including relocation costs. It's in your interest that **all workers are treated with dignity**.

We work on measures that **reduce working hours** and to **improve the work-life balance**. This includes measures such as flexibility in working hours, working from home, when the type of work permits, and what is known as **the right to disconnect**. We disagree with the use of artificial intelligence tools to monitor workers. Well-treated and respected workers give quality work because they have their dignity appreciated and safeguarded.

Green economy. It's in your interest.

It's *not* in your interest to have an economy based on unlimited growth and profits for the few. Rather, it's in your interest to arrive at an economy based on well-being – **a well-being economy**. An economy that improves your well-being and quality of life, **respects the limits that nature imposes on us**, will lead to a healthy environment. This is what we strive for.

We must develop a European welfare index that guides macro-economic decisions and economic governance, giving priority to investment to public services and to a green and social transition.

The European Central Bank should be mandated to encourage and facilitate green investment through preferential interest rates to reduce reliance on fossil fuels

that pollute the air and disrupt the climate. It's in your interest that the European Central Bank has the mandate to protect jobs together with price stability.

Industrial policy should ensure that the end target is working towards **zero pollution**. It's in your interest that industrial policy is not based on weak regulations and on pollution. It's in your interest that our country increases spending on research in scientific and technological fields, as well as social goals and well-being, with the help of European funds.

Industrial waste shall be considered a **design defect**. It's in your interest to move towards a truly **circular, renewable, waste-free economy**, without pollution and toxic, hazardous substances. We want to reach this target by the year 2040.

It's in your interest that small and medium businesses (SMEs), while operating in the interest of the well-being of society and the community, do not end up at a disadvantage because large and multinational companies are allowed to monopolise the market and do not shoulder their responsibilities towards us all.

Cooperatives are a more democratic way of work and commerce. To strengthen cooperatives, including social cooperatives, these should have access to technical and financial assistance specific to them.

Fighting corruption. It's in your interest.

It's in your interest to work for a transparent, more democratic European Union where accountability is strengthened. The Qatargate scandals have shown that the Union institutions are not doing enough to eradicate corruption and to ensure correct ethical behaviour. We want a single and independent ethics body in the European Union, with the power to monitor, control and punish conflicts of interest and unethical behaviour.

It's in your interest to know who is making particular proposals on EU directives and regulation. Effective legislation is needed to **regulate lobbying**, including a **mandatory transparency register** at European Union level. Documents and reports on legislation being considered by the Council of the European Union, where EU ministers meet to discuss legislative bills, should be made public. The process of legislation at this stage should be transparent. It is unacceptable that part of the process of shaping legislation remains secret.

It's in your interest that institutions fighting corruption such as the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) have the necessary resources to ensure that our money is not stolen.

We work for equality, against violence. It's in your interest.

Do you benefit from hate mongering? It's in your interest to challenge the far-right hatred of migrants, people who are considered "different", and LGBTQIA + people. **Hatred adversely affects our quality of life**, increases social tension, and undermines cooperation and the building of a healthy society.

It's in your interest to strengthen democracy, liberty, and human rights. We want the **Charter of Fundamental Rights to be a competence of the European Union**. The EU anti-discrimination legal framework and the horizontal Anti-Discrimination Directive should be strengthened to include different forms of discrimination, including racism.

Gender-based violence should be an offence at EU level. It's in your interest that, for you, for our children, transgender, intersex, and non-binary people are protected and included in the EU legal framework and LGBTQIA + equality strategy. Freedom of movement is everyone's right including that of rainbow families.

It's in your interest to secure the right to effective sexual education, and access to quality contraceptives for young people. Sexual education and access to contraceptives mean a better quality of life and fewer problems of a social, medical and psychological nature. We don't want anyone to end up in prison because they were faced with having to make a difficult decision to terminate a pregnancy.

It's in your interest to work for gender balance in the electoral lists of the European Parliament, as well as in the European Commission.

The **European Pact on Immigration and Asylum is not fit for today's times**. It's in your interest that all member states shoulder their responsibility for asylum. Mediterranean countries including Malta should be supported in relief missions on the central Mediterranean migration route. Member states should assist humanitarian rescue missions and there should be no covert agreements or pushbacks. There should be **no cooperation with Libya in human rights violations**, violence, torture and the criminal abuse of persons. There should be an agreed list of countries that are not safe for LGBTQIA+ people.

Artificial intelligence at the service of humanity. It's in your interest.

It's in your interest that we face head-on the risks of artificial intelligence (AI). It's in your interest to secure and implement the **fundamental principle of human control over all AI systems**. Humans must always remain in control. It's in your interest that AI works for you, for society and for our world, and not to control and supervise us. We don't want techno-capitalism.

We don't want AI systems that categorise us according to our gender or sexual orientation, our race or emotions. Nor do we want a police state that uses AI to decide what actions to take depending on the supposed characteristics of individual or different groups. Every digital application using AI should be clearly marked as such.

It's in your interest that the EU develops a **digital ethic that prevents AI systems from being used to predict people's behaviour**, risking discrimination, strengthening existing stereotypes, and social and cultural segregation and exclusion. **Our data should not be usable without consent.**

Free and independent press. It's in your interest.

It's in your interest to have a European legal framework on media. Commercial monopolies in the press sector are unacceptable. We want an EU legal framework that **protects the work of journalists** and that prevents financial interests from undermining **investigative journalism**. We must ensure that intellectual property laws such as copyright, industrial secrets, data protection, and the Audiovisual Media Services Directive are not abused.

It's in your interest to work for European laws that would **end the PL and PN's control over broadcasting**. At any time, one party controls public broadcasting. This control undermines democracy because it perpetuates the lie that their opinions are the only opinions that count. There are far more opinions than those of the ruling party, which is not only the result of the plurality of political parties but also the fruit of an active civil society. The PL and PN should no longer own broadcasting stations, and the state should not finance party stations either directly or indirectly as this means that the state is financing their political campaigns. The *status quo* is contrary to the spirit of the European Media Freedom Act.

It's in your interest to ensure that in the light of the **European Media Freedom Act** a public broadcasting reform is carried out, therefore ensuring an editorial role in the hands of people of various ideas and which should lead to public broadcasting detached from the government of the day and led by professional broadcasters. The reform should mean that the management of public broadcasting, as well as governance boards, should be chosen through a transparent process for a fixed-term, without the hidden or not-so-hidden hand and interference from the government or the Minister.

A Union of peace, cooperation and human rights. It's in your interest.

Foreign policy is a national competence, but it's in your interest to strengthen cooperation and coordination of European action in this area.

Multilateral cooperation and action should be based on the principles of democracy, the international rule of law, solidarity, human rights and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The United Nations (UN) and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) are important fora of international cooperation and action inspired by these principles.

It's in your interest to defend the UN, the watchdog of common values between nations, from attacks of whoever wants to further undermine it. On the contrary, we want to **strengthen the accountability, transparency and effectiveness of the United Nations**. We want the Security Council to reflect today's world and for the regions of the whole world to have proper representation on this important Council. Regional State organisations such as the EU should be permanent members of the Security Council. The right of veto shall be removed immediately.

There should be a net division of competences between the EU and NATO. Although the vast majority of member states are now also NATO members, member states which are not NATO members, such as Malta, should be included in every discussion where European Union security is concerned. Member states will take their decisions according to context and on a case-by-case basis.

The militarist mentality of conservatives needs to be resisted. The priority here should be mediation, reconciliation and avoiding conflicts before they occur. This does not mean that we will never need to support countries enduring invasions by aggressors. Military action should be absolutely the last resort, in line with international law and be of a defensive nature only.

The European Union must defend the rule of international law, human rights and international humanitarian law. Whoever commits genocide, war crimes and violates human rights, whoever they may be, should face international justice. The work of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the International Court of Justice should be assisted so that all those responsible for the war crimes in Gaza and the Palestinian territories face justice as soon as possible.

It's in your interest for justice to be served, because true justice instils peace and stability. After decades of colonial and apartheid oppression, Palestine should be recognised as a state. There must be a common effort and help in favour of lasting peace so that all Palestinians have the right to their home and the right to take back what was stolen from them by the colonisers.

It's in your interest that both our country and the European Union have more control over the energy system, over crucial technologies, and of over other strategic matters. It is a matter of security. The green transition is therefore important, as it reduces resource waste, and reduces dependence on resources from sources that destroy the environment and increase poverty, disease and suffering.

It's in your interest that the European Union has a clearer cyber security strategy that allows cooperation and interoperability across member states to counteract disinformation that threatens democracy.

Any trade agreement must ensure the protection of social rights, the environment and climate. It's in your interest.

It's in your interest that we Greens continue to push to improve bilateral trade and investment agreements to ensure that social rights, the environment and climate, in our interest are all secured. The Paris Agreement, the Kunming-Montreal biodiversity agreement, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the core conventions of the World Labour Organisation (ILO) should become essential elements of trade agreements. No trade agreement should undermine the European Union's high standards, particularly when it comes to quality standards, social and labour standards, and agricultural and environmental standards.

It's in your interest that no trade rules hinder climate action. On the contrary, trade too must be part of our efforts to limit emissions, shift to zero-carbon technologies and end ecological destruction. Trade in sustainable products and services should be facilitated, so that they are made freely available and accessible to all. Any product too dangerous for use in the EU is also too dangerous for use in other countries. Goods which are not authorised to be sold in the EU shall not be exported to third countries.