



Welcome the Green Party Seniors Newsletter

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DON'T ACCIDENTALLY UNSUBSCRIBE

I notice that our membership has gone down by three members. Of course, it could be a deliberate choice but if someone has unsubscribed by accident, I wouldn't know and wouldn't be able to contact them. Be careful.

GPS Committee member, Erwin Schaefer, of West Central London GP attended the virtual meeting of the European Green Party Council - 25-29 May 2021.



Here is his report.

I felt very privileged to have been chosen as a voting delegate. The GPEW group was quite diverse and I was there to represent Green Party Seniors.

One of the most fascinating aspects was the sheer reality of actively being engaged in highly productive and efficiently run policy-altering motion workshops. Out of 11 motions up for debate, I worked on improved Green rail transport around Europe, including high-speed rail travel which appears far less controversial than in the UK. I also worked on a motion to encourage a continent-wide post-lockdown reconstruction along the lines of a Green New Deal - plus other motions the rest of the group were assigned to. All these motions will inform Green thinking and policies in the EU Parliament.

The Council was emphatically not an exercise in inward looking navel-gazing; it was refreshing to experience and hear about practical applications of Green Mayors setting out strategies to make their cities cleaner, more sustainable, more pleasant to live in - and making a success of it. One interactive webinar in fact took on the usual, if outdated, criticisms of Green policies as being unrealistic, exploring them and emphasising that these policies are actually best suited to the challenges our continent faces.

There were a number of high-profile key speakers, most notably Annalena Baerbock, the German Green prime-ministerial candidate. Just to consider that a Green Party in Europe is preparing to potentially form a government is at the same time both encouraging but also infuriating from a UK perspective. A speech like that has to cover a broad spectrum of topics and so we listened to a common European approach to the current health crisis and its aftermath, long-term thinking on green job creation, solidarity and social equality, speaking with one forceful voice on human rights in foreign affairs dealings and the EU as being a Union of Values. And as a UK delegate one is left wondering - if only...!

As I was representing the Green Party Seniors, I also attended the AGM of the European Network of Green Seniors and was chosen as a new committee member for ENGS. As a follow-on to the AGM we were treated to a presentation by an Austrian Professor of economics about how different economic models, from conservative capitalism to a more progressive form of economy compare in their cycles, in particular a 'boom and bust' scenario with associated populist tendencies as they played out over the course of the 20th century until now. I am trying to get him to repeat his presentation in a GPEW framework.

Of course, it wasn't all just work; there were opportunities for networking and 'virtual socialising' to get to know some people better and make contacts. Hopefully the next Council, planned for early December in Budapest, will happen as a physical event. I look forward to be chosen again as a GPEW delegate."

More information from the European Greens Council meeting here:

<https://europeangreens.eu/news/highlights-33rd-european-green-party-council>

What is the Political Committee?

There are a lot of groups in GPEW these days. Here is one of them.

Political Committee (PolCom) has a somewhat shadowy past but was originally set up when we gained London Assembly members and two Euro MPs so that they could have a quick ring round on any hot issue of the day to agree the messaging with our Principal Speakers to make sure it was in line with policy.

PolCom has grown over the years and now includes reps from Special Interest Groups, among others. We are glad that a Seniors rep has a seat at this table and we will always attend to observe and contribute on matters that concern Seniors.



Is there any way that Seniors can demonstrate that we care about the planet? Does anyone know of any existing plans that we could support?

Where do our members live?

We would like to know the geographical spread of our members.

Are we representative of the country?

City or country dwelling?

Please can you add your local party or location after your name on the Google Group.

Thank you.



And finally

We do realise that people have probably had enough of Zoom, but if you would be interested in a virtual meeting, look out for a Doodle Poll which Freda is setting up to choose the best date and time for a Green Party Seniors social meet up.

A chance to talk more about some of things we've been discussing by email and get to know people better.

From: Your Committee

Freda Davis and Noel Lynch, Co-Chairs

Erwin Schaefer, Social Media

Nicola Watson, Membership