

FOR CHANGE

THE EUROPEAN PROGRAMME
IN 5 MINUTES

GROENLINKS

FOR CHANGE

THE NEXT ELECTIONS FOR THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY 23 MAY. ON THAT DAY YOU HAVE THE CHANCE TO DETERMINE THE COURSE OF EUROPE.

The European elections are important. Do we continue to accept that politicians are doing too little to combat climate change, or do we choose a clean economy that runs on sun and wind? Do we continue to accept that companies pay less and less taxes, or do we choose a fair society in which everyone pays their fair share? Do we withdraw behind the dikes or do we choose cooperation in Europe?

We choose change.

GREEN EUROPE

We want to leave a clean, healthy planet for our children and grandchildren. We're worried about global warming. Climate change is caused by the polluting economy. An economy that's still committed to fossil energy, to gas, oil and coal.

There's much talk but far too little action on climate change. At the moment, European politicians are giving in too much to polluting industry. We choose change. We want an economy that runs on solar and wind energy. We want more trains that run on clean energy, so that we need fewer aeroplanes. We want small-scale, animal-friendly agriculture. We want cows that wander around freely in pastures.

To achieve this, we must work together in Europe. We must force big corporations to pay for the pollution they cause. Together we can generate clean energy more efficiently. We can install wind turbines at sea, where there's more wind. We can install solar panels in countries with more sunshine. We'll make a push for high-speed trains between European capitals. We want the European Union to reward farmers if they make green choices. This is how Europe can make a difference in the fight against climate change.

SOCIAL EUROPE

Europe is now a paradise for big corporations. They take maximum advantage of a Europe with open borders. They use unfair means to pay as few taxes as possible and give employees as little pay as possible.

We use taxes to pay for our schools, our healthcare and our social safety net. Everybody benefits from that. Big corporations are eager to set up offices in Europe, because we have highly skilled employees here. However, big corporations stake European countries against one another and go to the country with the lowest tax rates. That's why countries keep lowering the tax on profits, so they can appease these companies. This comes at a price - a price that comes out of the citizen's pocket. Ultimately, the people have to pay more taxes. Or countries are cutting back on healthcare, education and the social safety net. We want corporations to pay their fair share.

We support 'equal pay for equal work'. People who do the same work in the same country should earn the same. Big corporations now use complex loopholes to circumvent this and ensure that employees from abroad receive low wages. That's unfair to those employees who are paid too little. But it's also unfair to Dutch employees, because they're too expensive in comparison.

We choose change. Only by working together can we ensure that countries in Europe are no longer played off against one another by big corporations.

OUR PRIORITIES

Our priorities for the next five years are:

1 CLEAN ENERGY

All coal-fired power stations must be closed by 2030.

2 HIGH-SPEED TRAINS

High-speed train connections between the European capitals.

3 FAIR TAXES

Mutual agreements between European countries so that big corporations pay their fair share of taxes.

4 LESS MARKET

End European rules designed to ensure that municipalities outsource their healthcare to companies.

5 PROTECT FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

Countries that do not respect the fundamental rights of their citizens are no longer allowed to spend European Union subsidies.

6 FREE INTERNET

Restrict the powers of tech giants like Google and Facebook.

7 ONE ASYLUM POLICY

The European Union must establish fair, joint rules for refugees seeking protection in Europe.

8 FAIR TRADE

The European Union only concludes trade agreements that focus on care for people and the climate.