



Our ecofeminist demands

Parties

DRASTIC ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE, NOW!

EU, as one of the biggest global polluters, must double its climate targets and act on them urgently to cut greenhouse gas emissions. We need to face up to our past and support the Global South, as well as fight structural barriers which leave women more affected by climate change impacts.

GENDER-JUST ENERGY TRANSITION

Womxn on average have a lower income, which leaves them disproportionately at risk of energy poverty. The transition to sustainable energies must be just, decentralised, accompanied by participatory citizen's processes and further gender equality.

TOXIC CHEMICALS, NO THANK-YOU

Chemicals lurking in everyday products threaten male reproductive health and increase breast cancer risk in womxn. We also know that 90% of all children are born pre-polluted. We need stricter controls to ensure that hazardous chemicals do not end up on our shelves.

SAFE WATER FOR ALL

Your access to safe, clean and affordable water should not be determined by who you are, your age, gender nor where you live! Yet, in many EU countries there is a big difference in access between rural and urban communities.

PERIOD POWER FOR ALL

Menstruators should not be polluted with chemicals in period products nor be subject to period poverty. We need to put an end to the tampon tax in all EU states and make toxic-free alternatives affordable and accessible to all. Industries should bear the burden for the ecological clean up of single-use period products.

ACT ON SINGLE-USE AND MICRO-PLASTIC

The EU's recent ban on single-use plastics does not go far enough: we need stricter laws to impose restrictions on excessive plastic packaging and to make all plastics recyclable by 2030. Micro-plastics must also be banned from consumer goods.

SLOW DOWN FASHION

EU's outsourcing of garment production to the Global South cannot go on unchecked. Environmental restrictions and social protections of the female-dominated workforce are disregarded. Industries must be held responsible and pay for textile waste collection.

GENDER QUOTAS

We need more womxn to sit at the decision-making table of EU institutions and corporations. E.g. more women are needed at high level positions in STEM industries as research has shown that the lack of womxn in the energy sector is holding us back against climate change.

| | Greens | PES | European Left | EFA | ALDE | EDP | EPP |
|--|--------|--------|---------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| DRASTIC ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE, NOW! | Green | Green | Red | Green | Yellow | Green | Green |
| GENDER-JUST ENERGY TRANSITION | Green | Green | Green | Green | Yellow | Yellow | Red |
| TOXIC CHEMICALS, NO THANK-YOU | Green | Yellow | Red | Yellow | Red | Yellow | Red |
| SAFE WATER FOR ALL | Red | Green | Green | Red | Red | Red | Red |
| PERIOD POWER FOR ALL | Yellow | Yellow | Yellow | Yellow | Yellow | Red | Red |
| ACT ON SINGLE-USE AND MICRO-PLASTIC | Green | Red | Red | Red | Red | Yellow | Red |
| SLOW DOWN FASHION | Red | Green | Green | Red | Green | Yellow | Red |
| GENDER QUOTAS | Green | Yellow | Green | Green | Green | Red | Yellow |

WOMXN means "women in all their diversity"

Committed
Partially committed
No commitment or no mention



INSPIRED?

Here's some more information on these issues and how to dig deeper! Let's mobilise!



A how-to-vote guide

EU members are voting for a new parliament 23-26 May 2019. If you are an EU citizen and over 18 years, you have a right to vote (Malta and Austria from 16 years and Greece from 17 years). If you live abroad, you can either vote for candidates in your home country or in your country of residence, but no voting twice! Wherever you're voting, you must play by the electoral rules of that system. In some countries registration to vote is automatic with residency, in some you need to complete this yourself. Learn how you vote here: bit.ly/EU-how-to-vote



Get womxn to the table

The glass ceiling still looms large over Europe: only 36% of MEPs and 29% of national MPs are womxn. These figures are worse still for the energy, environment and transport sectors. This gender imbalance means gendered issues go unheard: e.g. gender impacts the future of more sustainable transport links, as averagely lower car-ownership rates make womxn more dependent on public transport. We need to start with education: men still outnumber womxn graduates in STEM subjects (scientific fields) 2 to 1.



Womxn worse off on this warming planet

We have all seen it: the footage of devastating forest fires, crippling heat waves and record breaking storms. Climate chaos has become weekly news. We are witnessing the impact of a 1°C increase of global temperature. These disasters are hitting the Global South the hardest, with women in particular taking a disproportionately heavy blow. Gendered roles mean womxn are responsible for the provision of threatened resources like water, fuel and food. EU's role in producing 17% of CO2 emissions ever emitted speaks for our historical responsibility to push beyond our frankly modest commitments to cut emissions by 40% by 2030. Polluting is just too cheap. Big industry will continue to resist a carbon phase-out unless we have a minimum price on carbon pollution to properly encourage countries to end the era of fossil fuels.



Stop polluting our vaginas

You would be forgiven for not knowing what's in your tampon. The industry isn't even required to list contents. But the reality is that disposable sanitary products can be up to 90% plastic and potentially contain plasticising chemicals, endangering our reproductive health and adding to the growing mountain of marine litter. In fact, sanitary products are the 5th most common single-use plastic on our shores. Yet the industry is holding us to ransom: by blocking efforts to impose costs for an ecological clean-up by threatening to increase costs for the consumer. Worse still, there is no EU wide end to the Tampon Tax. We can battle plastic waste and menstrual poverty breaking the stigma around using sustainable alternatives, with reusables being just 6% of the cost of disposables.



Photo: Annabelle Avril

Slow fashion, now!

Globally, 80% of garment workers are womxn. They risk exposure to highly toxic dyes and rampant sexual abuse in factories only to earn an unlivable wage. We are not helpless to this injustice: an EU Strategy on Business and Human Rights would secure greater restrictions on European companies exploiting the outsourcing of production to the Global South. The EU must also end the linear "consume-wear-dispose" model. Currently, France is the only EU country which makes companies responsible for ensuring clothing is recycled or reused. We need instore collection points, more transparent labelling and expanded industry responsibility.

Energy justice for all

Energy poverty may be something we think is limited to the Global South, therefore it might be shocking to find out that more than 54 million people struggle to pay their energy bills in the EU. The EU's transition to 100% sustainable energy must protect the people whose livelihoods are affected by the economic shift, including coal communities and gas and oil workers, as well as create educational programs. To be fair and equitable, this transition must also challenge the gendered division of labour, which places women in often low waged, insecure and informal subsistence and service industries. We need energy and resource democracy, where local people, particularly women, are allowed to make decisions over the use of local resources and the best way to fulfil their needs.



Toxic chemicals, no thank-you!

Chemicals in everyday products like tampons, plastic bottles and cosmetics are silently threatening our reproductive health. Hormone disrupting chemicals are of particular concern, being linked to falling sperm counts and hormone-dependent cancers such as breast and prostate cancer. The EU cannot continue to gamble with our health. The EU's REACH regulations on hazardous chemicals must be strengthened: corporations must be stopped from finding alternatives to banned substances. We need much greater consumer awareness on these health risks. Only concrete action against hazardous chemicals can fully secure our circular economy; only toxic-free products can be safely recycled.

