

Environment first? — The Greens at MEP 2011

As I walk into this conference room, I immediately recognize myself thinking: "Now that is a party really trying to convey its opinion." The GREENS at MEP 2011, though more than 75 percent of its members are participating in MEP for the very first time, presents itself as a strong, individual member of the European Parliament. Their statement is clear, "Atomkraft, nein danke!" ("No nuclear power!") beams down to the delegates from the desk of the party leaders.

Head of Fraction Dimitar Nikolov and the two deputy heads Anna Lena Paczinski and Svenja Kretschmar prepared an opening speech, introducing themselves and the party's program — using a self-printed internal flyer with specific information concerning their beliefs and how to attack the issues discussed this weekend. Afterwards, the delegates divide up into the committee groups trying to realise the goals of the Greens.

The atmosphere during the session is really good, all delegates are involved and know what their task is. Everyone really tries to be a broadly involved delegate in his committee and stays environmentally active at the same time. As an example, the "New Green Deal", a proposed solution to tackle the financial crisis, is a mixture of modern fiscal policy and ecological action.

Delegates asking for help are approached right away by the heads of fraction. Paczinski and Kretschmar experience that "communication is much easier than primarily thought it would be. [...] The delegates do great individual work, so up to now it is very easy to get to them and help."

The party worked very hard and from 21:00 on the first committees started to meet other party members to get their directives into discussion. All things considered, the Green party managed to get a very promising start into this weekend and will definitely have a recognizable impact on the results of MEP 2011