

## **PARTY CONSTITUTION**

Adopted at the party congress held on 19.–20.5.2012

### 5 **CONTENTS**

#### THE NAME, LOCATION, PURPOSE AND FUNCTIONING OF THE PARTY

- 10 § 1 The Party's Name
- § 2 The Party's Location
- § 3 The Party's Raison d'Etre
- § 4 The Party's Functions
- § 5 Signing on Behalf of the Party
- 15 § 6 The Party's Accounting Period

#### THE PARTY'S STRUCTURE AND MEMBERS

- § 7 Organisational Structure of the Party
- 20 § 8 Party Membership
- § 9 How Members Can Leave the Party, and on What Grounds They Can Be Expelled
- § 10 Membership Fees and Other Fees
- § 11 Functions of District Groups
- § 12 Functions of Local Groups

#### 25 THE PARTY EXECUTIVE

- § 13 Composition of the Party Executive
- § 14 Functions of the Party Executive
- 30 § 15 Convening the Party Executive and its Quorum

#### THE PARTY COUNCIL

- § 16 Composition of the Party Council
- 35 § 17 Functions of the Party Council
- § 18 Convening the Party Council and its Quorum

#### THE PARTY CONGRESS

- 40 § 19 Functions of the Party Congress
- § 20 Election of Party Officials at the Party Congress
- § 21 Voting Procedure Used in Elections
- § 22 The Standing Committee for Party Congress Elections
- § 23 Member Associations' Representatives' Voting Entitlement
- 45 § 24 Convening the Party Congress and its Quorum
- § 25 Extraordinary Party Congresses
- § 26 Motions

#### THE NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES FOR PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS

- 50 § 27 Nomination of Candidates
- § 28 Arrangements for Membership Votes
- § 29 Naming Candidates for Membership Votes
- § 30 Participation in Membership Votes

#### 55 THE PARLIAMENTARY GROUP AND PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT

- § 31 The Parliamentary Group
- § 32 Participation in Government and Cooperation with Other Governmental Parties

60

## OTHER STATUTES

- 65 § 33 Voting Procedure Used in Internal Party Elections
- § 34 Gender Quotas
- § 35 Advisory Membership Votes

## CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS AND DISSOLVING THE PARTY

- 70 § 36 Changing the Party Constitution
  - § 37 Dissolving the Party
- 

## 75 THE NAME, LOCATION, PURPOSE AND FUNCTIONING OF THE PARTY

### § 1 The Party's Name

- 80 The party's name is Vihreä liitto r.p. in Finnish, Gröna förbundet r.p. in Swedish, and Ruoná lihttu r.b. in Sami. Vihreä liitto r.p. will also be referred to as "the party" below.

### § 2 The Party's Location

- 85 The party is located in the city of Helsinki with its operational area being the whole country. The languages of the party are Finnish and Swedish while Finnish is used for the minutes of meetings.

### § 3 The Party's Raison d'Être

- 90 The party exists for the purpose of promoting nature conservation and environmental protection, societal and regional equity, personal growth, equality, and sustainable development worldwide. It is the work of the party to influence matters pertaining to politics and the state in accordance with the party's Statement of Principles as well as to help citizens realise their capacity to influence the outcome of decision-making in society

### § 4 The Party's Functions

- 95 In order to fulfil its raison d'Être, the party:

- Engages in research and publishing
- Gathers and transmits information

- 100 Puts forward motions and draws up position papers
- Takes an active role in society by putting forward candidates for national and local elections.

- 105 The party can receive gifts and be named in testaments as well as buy, own and manage fixed assets. Additionally, it can, with the right authorisation, fundraise, arrange raffles, and run cafés, restaurants and publishing houses as well as make provisions for receiving other forms of necessary financial support that will help the party achieve its aims. Such support is not for the purpose of financially profiting the party's members.

### § 5 Signing on Behalf of the Party

- 110 Either the party leader or one of the deputy leaders, together with the party secretary or a party employee determined by the party executive, can sign on behalf of the party.

- The party executive can also extend the right to sign on behalf of the party to a party employee or trustee independently.

- 115 § 6 The Party's Accounting Period

- 120 The party's accounting period is a calendar year. The annual financial statement and other important documents must be given to the party's accountant for his/her inspection at the latest three weeks before the meeting of the party council that deals with the financial statement.

## THE PARTY'S STRUCTURE AND MEMBERS

### 125 § 7 Organisational Structure of the Party

The party is a league that consists of grassroots associations, local groups, district groups, league organisations and local associations of league organisations, and national private associations of league organisations.

### 130 Grassroots Associations

The area of operations of a grassroots association is one or more municipalities or municipal districts. The members of a grassroots association are private individual members.

135 The job of a grassroots association is to represent the party in the association's area of operations.

#### Local Groups

If there is only one member association of the party's in a given area, it functions as the municipality's local group.

140 If a number of the party's member associations function in the municipality, these can establish a local group as its federation. Such a group has as its members the associations in question. In other cases, the party's executive board decides which of the municipality's member associations should carry out the local group's duties.

145 The functions of a local group are listed in § 12.

#### District Groups

150 The area of operations of a district group is the parliamentary election-level constituency. The members of a district group are those grassroots associations, local groups and local associations of league organisations operating in the constituency.

The functions of a district group are listed in § 11.

### 155 League Organisations

A national organisation referred to as a league organisation is one whose members are the league organisation's own local associations as well as private individual members independent of any local associations. The area of operations for a league organisation is the whole country and it must have a local association in at least four areas where district groups operate.

160

#### Local Associations of League Organisations

165 A local association of a league organisation represents the league organisation in the association's area of operations, as approved by the league organisation. The members of a local association of a league organisation are private individual members.

#### National Private Associations

170 The members of national private associations are private individual members. The area of operations of a national private association is the whole country and it must have members in at least four areas where district groups operate.

## § 8 Party Membership

175

### Member Associations

180 A registered association that is either a grassroots association, local group, district group, league organisation, local association of a league organisation or national private association can be accepted as an ordinary member of the party if it, additionally, accepts the party's Statement of Principles and the Party Constitution and fulfils the other requirements laid out in § 7. Ordinary members are referred to as "member associations" in this constitution.

The party council has the power to approve and expel a member association.

## 185 Supporting Members

A private individual or competent community can be accepted as a supporting member of the party. Members of this variety do not have voting rights.

190 The party executive has the power to approve and expel a supporting member.

### Private Individual Members

195 Private individual members belong to member associations. The same private individual member can be a member of more than one association if he/she so wishes.

A member association has the power to approve and expel a private individual member in accordance with the former's constitution.

200

## § 9 How Members Can Leave the Party, and on What Grounds They Can Be Expelled

205 Member associations or supporting members can be expelled if they fail to pay the relevant membership fees or otherwise neglect the responsibilities to which they agreed upon joining the party. Conduct within or without the party that seriously damages it or contradicts the law or the conditions placed upon membership in this constitution is also grounds for being expelled.

210 A grassroots association, local association of a league organisation or national private association can also be expelled if the association has become permanently defunct, something that is judged to have happened when the association hasn't had a single membership fee-paying private individual member in three consecutive years.

215 A private individual member belonging to a member association of the party cannot belong to another party or be added to another party's list of electoral candidates. A member association must expel any such members. If the member association fails to expel a member in this situation, the party council can expel the member association from the party.

## § 10 Membership Fees and Other Fees

### Member Associations' Membership Fees to the Party

220

A membership fee for each of the association's private individual members is collected, as described below.

Those member associations of the party's that do not have private individual members do not have to pay membership fees.

225

### Membership Fees for Private Individual Members

230 A private individual member of a member association pays an annual membership fee, which includes both the private individual member's membership fee to his/her member association and the member association's membership fee to the party for the private individual member in question.

The membership fee paid by a private individual member is referred to in this constitution as a "basic membership fee". The reduced membership fee low-income private individual members are allowed to pay is referred to as a "reduced membership fee".

235 The party congress determines annually:  
The size of the basic membership fee and the reduced membership fee  
240 The share of the basic membership fee and the reduced membership fee that goes to the member association and the party respectively  
If a member association in its constitution has not made membership fee-related decision-making a job of the party congress, the party congress will only determine the size of the share of the membership fee coming from the association to the party.

245 Supporting Members' Fees  
Supporting members of the party pay an annual supporting member's fee, the size of which is determined by the party congress.

250 Trustees' Fees  
The party executive can decide that persons in a position of trust must pay a trustee fee of a given size to the party from their annual and monthly earnings and their earnings from attending meetings.

## 255 § 11 Functions of District Groups

A district group designated by the party executive:

260 Represents the party at the district level  
Places candidates on the party's lists for parliamentary elections and is responsible for the party's parliamentary election campaign in the constituency  
Can decide on matters pertaining to the fees charged of trustees appointed to constituency, regional or corresponding positions of trust  
265 Carries out other functions it is given by the party executive

## § 12 Functions of Local Groups

A local group designated by the party executive:

270 Represents the party at the municipal level  
Places candidates on the party's lists for local elections and is responsible for the party's local election campaign  
Can decide on matters pertaining to the fees charged of trustees appointed to positions of trust in municipalities  
Carries out other functions it is given by the party executive

275

## THE PARTY EXECUTIVE

### § 13 Composition of the Party Executive

280 The 12-member party executive handles the party's affairs. The chairperson of the party executive is referred to as the party's leader and the party executive's vice chairpersons are referred to as deputy leaders.

285 The party congress chooses the party's leader, three deputy leaders, other members of the party executive (8 persons) and other members' personal deputies (8 persons) for a two-year term at a time.

The restrictions relating to the terms of members and deputies of the party executive are as follows:

290 The same person can be an ordinary member of the party executive for a maximum of two consecutive full terms  
The same person can be a party executive deputy for a maximum of two consecutive full terms  
In addition to the aforementioned restrictions, the same person cannot be an ordinary member of the party executive

or one of its deputies for longer than four consecutive full terms

Regardless of how many terms he/she has been an ordinary member of the party executive or one of its deputies, the same person can be appointed deputy leader for a maximum of two consecutive full terms

305 Regardless of how many terms he/she has been an ordinary member of the party executive or one of its deputies or deputy leader, the same person can be appointed leader for a maximum of two consecutive full terms

A member of the party executive can be removed from his/her job by the party congress even though the person in question has not seen out his/her full term.

300 If a member of the party executive quits or is removed before completing his/her full term, the party congress chooses a new member to replace him/her for the remainder of the term.

305 Women and men are chosen for the party executive in such a way that there is a minimum of five members representing each group.

The same person cannot be made both a member of the party executive and a member of the party council.

310 The party secretary and the leadership of the party council have the right to be present and make proposals at meetings of the party executive as well as to address these. Members of the party's parliamentary group and Members of the European Parliament representing the party have the right to be present at meetings of the party executive as well as to address these.

## § 14 Functions of the Party Executive

315 In addition to those functions determined separately in this constitution, the functions of the party executive are:

To lead the party

To make sure decisions made by the party congress and the party council are implemented

320 To formulate and direct the party's international, national, and municipal work and make preparations for elections

To make decisions about electoral alliances

To choose candidates for European Parliament elections

To name representatives for the most important election debates organised by the media

To employ the necessary party officials, to agree on their salaries and to determine their tasks

325 To set up working groups the party deems necessary and to decide upon their members and who heads them

To make decisions about fundraising for the benefit of the party

To take responsibility for the management of the party's funds, assets and other financial activities as well as to decide about taking out loans and offering up collateral

330 To decide which of the deputy leaders takes on the leader's responsibilities and likewise which party employee stands in for the party secretary if and when the leader or party secretary is temporarily unable to perform his/her duties

To decide on the time and place of party congresses, to convene party congress in accordance with the constitution, to prepare party congresses and matters determined by the constitution for party congresses as well as to process motions proposed for the party congress

335 To decide on the time and place of party council meetings, to convene the party council in accordance with the constitution, and to prepare party council meetings

To designate local groups and to determine their area of operations

To designate district groups

To appoint representatives to the boards of governors of stated-owned companies, working groups within areas of ministry administration, expert panels and corresponding bodies that have requested Vihreä liitto r.p. be represented

340 To appoint representatives to national-level positions of trust related to municipal affairs

To appoint representatives to the decision-making organs of the European Greens

To decide on fees for trustees and the size of these

To approve and expel supporting members of the party

To manage other tasks relating to the party's functioning

345 The party executive complies with the following statutes when making appointments and proposals and setting salaries for officials.

350 If a trustee's term is measured in electoral periods, the same representative can be appointed for a maximum of two consecutive full terms (eight years)

If a trustee's term is two years in length, the same representative can be appointed for a maximum of three

consecutive full terms (six years)

If a trustee's term is one year in length, the same representative can be appointed for a maximum of four consecutive full terms (four years)

355 When employing people permanently the party executive must officially advertise the positions to be filled

## § 15 Convening the Party Executive and its Quorum

360 The party executive convenes at the invitation of the party's leader or, if he/she is prevented from doing so, one of the deputy leaders when they consider it necessary or when three members of the party executive request in writing that the leader call a meeting for the purpose of handling a specific issue. The party executive is considered quorate when at least seven members of the party executive are in attendance, one of whom must be the party's leader or one of the deputy leaders.

365

## THE PARTY COUNCIL

### § 16 Composition of the Party Council

370 The party has a 40-member party council. The party congress chooses the party council's chairperson, two vice chairpersons, the other 37 members and their personal deputies for a two-year term at a time.

The restrictions relating to the terms of members and deputies of the party council are as follows:

375 The same person can be an ordinary member of the party council for a maximum of two consecutive full terms

The same person can be a party council deputy for a maximum of two consecutive full terms

In addition to the aforementioned restrictions, the same person cannot be an ordinary member of the party council or one of its deputies for longer than four consecutive full terms

380 Regardless of how many terms he/she has been an ordinary member of the party council or one of its deputies, the same person can be appointed chairperson of the party council for a maximum of two consecutive full terms

Women and men are chosen for the party council in such a way that there is a minimum of 16 members representing each group.

385 The same person cannot be made both a member of the party executive and a member of the party council.

A member of the party council can be removed from his/her job by the party congress even though the person in question has not seen out his/her full term.

390 If a member of the party council quits or is removed before completing his/her full term, the party congress chooses a new member to replace him/her for the remainder of the term.

395 The party's leader and deputy leaders, the party secretary, members of the party's parliamentary group and Members of the European Parliament representing the party have the right to be present and make proposals at meetings of the party council as well as to address these. Members of the party executive have the right to be present at meetings of the party executive as well as to address these.

### § 17 Functions of the Party Council

400 In addition to those functions determined separately in this constitution, the functions of the party council are:

To formulate ideological and programmatic statements and positions in between party congresses

To take part in both far-reaching and day-to-day policy-making discussions about the party's actions and vision

405 To approve the party's programmes, with the exception of the party's Statement of Principles and Political

Programme, if the party council does not transfer the right to approve programmes to the party congress or party executive

To approve voting and electoral rules for use in national and European parliamentary elections

To decide on participating in presidential elections and to choose the party's presidential candidate if the party council does not transfer the right to make these decisions to the party congress

- 410 To appoint a new person to replace a member of the party executive or the party secretary until the next party congress if a member of the party executive or the party secretary quits or is permanently unable to carry out his/her duties  
To make motions for the party congress and party executive  
To approve and expel the party's member associations
- 415 To approve the following calendar year's plan of action and budget  
To appoint two auditors and two deputy auditors for the following calendar year; one of the auditors and one of the deputy auditors have to be approved by Finland Chamber of Commerce or a chamber of commerce or accountancy firm  
To approve the previous calendar year's annual report and financial statement
- 420 To make decisions on relieving those charged with overseeing the party's accounts of their legal responsibility

## § 18 Convening the Party Council and its Quorum

- 425 The party council must hold a minimum of one meeting a year. This statutory meeting must be held by the end of May. Otherwise the party council itself decides when it convenes, in accordance with the meeting timetable.
- The party council also convenes if the party executive sees a need for this or when six members of the party council request in writing that the party executive call a meeting for the purpose of handling a specific issue.
- 430 The party council is considered quorate when at least 21 members of the party council are in attendance, one of whom must be the chairperson of the party council or one of its vice chairpersons.
- The party executive convenes meetings of the party council. The party executive must notify members of the party council of the meeting one week before the meeting, at the latest, by post or by email to the email address provided by a member of the party council.
- 435

## THE PARTY CONGRESS

### 440 § 19 Functions of the Party Congress

The functions of the party congress are:

- 445 To approve the party's Statement of Principles and Political Programme  
To approve the party's strategy  
To chose every second year, in this order:  
The party's leader  
The party secretary  
The party council's chairperson
- 450 The party's three deputy leaders  
The party executive's 8 other members and their personal deputies  
The party council's two vice chairpersons  
The party council's other 37 members and their personal deputies
- 455 To make decisions, in accordance with § 10, about membership fees for the following term:  
The size of the basic membership fee and the reduced membership fee  
The share of the basic membership fee and the reduced membership fee that goes to the member association and the party respectively  
The size of the supporting member fee asked of supporting members
- 460 To handle motions that have been submitted to the party executive in writing within a set period before the party congress or that the party executive proposes should be tackled  
To deal with other matters that the congress decides to address

### § 20 Election of Party Officials at the Party Congress

- 465 The party congress chooses the party executive, party council and party secretary.

470 An eligible candidate for membership of the party executive and party council as well as the position of party secretary is a person who has been proposed by a member association for the organ in question before the party congress. Whether it is an ordinary member or deputy who is being proposed does not have to be specified in the proposal, and the name of an ordinary member's personal deputy does not need to be included. A person proposed for the party executive is also eligible for membership of the party council. Other candidates can also be named at the party congress.

475 In elections for members and deputies of the party executive and party council, both are voted for at the same time, hence one candidature always includes both an ordinary member and his/her personal deputy.

The party's leader, deputy leaders and party secretary as well as members and deputies of the party executive and the party council begin their terms the moment they are elected.

480 The party secretary can be chosen for a maximum of three full two-year terms.

## § 21 Voting Procedure Used in Elections

485 Elections are held at the party congress in accordance with the voting procedure defined in this clause. In the party's other internal elections, elections are held in accordance with § 33 of this constitution.

### § 21a

490 When there is one person to be chosen, the single transferable vote (i.e. alternative vote) is used, as described in the following:

495 The voter ranks the candidates in order of preference on the ballot paper: the candidate he/she deems to be most preferable goes first, the candidate he/she deems to be second-most preferable goes second etc. If the voter so chooses, he/she can rank fewer names on the ballot paper than the number of candidates in the election.

Each ballot paper is counted as one vote for that candidate who is marked first on the ballot paper (i.e. each "first-preference vote").

If one of the candidates holds an absolute majority – over half of all first-preference votes – this candidate wins the election.

500 If none of the candidates holds an absolute majority of the votes, the candidate with the fewest first-preference votes is eliminated.

Each ballot paper the eliminated candidate received becomes a vote for the candidate ranked second on the ballot paper.

If one of the candidates now holds over half of the votes cast, he/she wins the election.

505 If still none of the candidates holds a majority of the votes, of the remaining candidates the one with the fewest votes is eliminated. Each ballot paper the eliminated candidate received becomes a vote for the next non-eliminated candidate on the ballot paper. This procedure is repeated as many times as is needed for one candidate of the remaining candidates to achieve an absolute majority of the votes.

510 If two or more candidates at one stage in the count are equal on votes, their respective order is determined as per the guidelines given in § 21c.

If it cannot be decided, based on the ballot paper of an eliminated candidate, to whom the ballot paper should be transferred, the surplus is redistributed equally between all the remaining candidates, as described in Section 4 of § 21b.

### 515 § 21b

When there is more than one person to be chosen, the single transferable vote is used, as described here and in § 21. An election based on the single transferable vote proceeds in stages in the following manner:

520 1. The voter ranks as many candidates in order of preference on the ballot paper as he/she wishes.

When choosing an organ where ordinary members have personal deputies, candidates run as an ordinary-deputy team.

525

## 2. Winning Threshold

The number of accepted votes and, on this basis, the winning threshold are calculated as follows: winning threshold = number of accepted votes ÷ (number of places to be filled + 1), rounded up to two decimal points.

## 530 3. First Round of Vote Counting

In the first round, each candidate's first-preference votes – ballot papers where that candidate is ranked first – are counted. Candidates with a number of first-preference votes equal to or greater than the winning threshold are chosen.

## 535 4. Transferral of Surplus Votes

If, after the first round of vote counting, there are unfilled places, the surplus votes of the chosen individuals are transferred.

### The Surplus

540 The surplus to be transferred is determined thus: the winning threshold is deducted from the total amount of votes a candidate has received from all the completed rounds of vote counting. The transferral of the surplus starts from the candidate who gained the largest number of votes.

### Inspection of Ballot Papers

545 If a surplus occurs in the first round of vote counting, all the accepted ballot papers of a candidate during the first round of vote counting are inspected.

If a surplus, caused by the transferral of a second surplus or one or more candidates' elimination, becomes apparent during a round of vote counting, only the last set of ballot papers – which are all of the same value and which caused the surplus in question – is inspected.

550

### Transfer Value

555 The surplus transferred by an individual ballot paper, in other words the transfer value, is determined thus: the surplus is divided by the total number of ballot papers that are the subject of inspection. The transfer value is rounded down to two decimal points.

### The Transferral of Votes

560 In accordance with the order of preference marked on the ballot papers, ballot papers are transferred to the next candidate on the ballot paper. If the next candidate on the ballot paper has already been chosen or been eliminated, ballot papers are transferred to the next one after that etc. Each ballot paper transferred increases a candidate's number of votes by the transfer value of the ballot paper.

If a surplus cannot be transferred by a ballot paper, the ballot paper in question is distributed equally between all the remaining candidates, rounded down to two decimal points.

565

## 5. Elimination

570 If there is no longer a transferrable surplus and there are still places left to be filled, the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated, and all this candidate's votes are transferred at full transfer value to the other candidates, as defined in Section 4.

If none of the candidates have exceeded the winning threshold after this, the candidate with the second-fewest votes is eliminated.

575

## 6. Gender quotas

If the elimination of a candidate means a gender quota outlined in this constitution will not be met, the candidate with the second-fewest votes will be eliminated instead.

580

7. If two or more candidates at one stage in the count are equal on votes, their respective order is determined as per the guidelines given in § 21c.

8. This process is continued until all places to be filled are indeed filled.

585

§ 21c

The respective order of candidates in the event of a tie

590 If one or more candidates have the same amount of votes when the amount of candidates chosen in the first round outnumbers the number of places to be filled or when the surplus of the first round is distributed or when the surplus has not been transferred to the candidates in the event of elimination, the respective order of the candidates is determined by the number of second-preference votes they gained. If there is a tie in second-preference votes the number of third-preference votes etc. the candidates gained is inspected. If it cannot be determined what the candidates' respective order is based on ballot papers, the candidates' respective order will be decided by lot.

595 When a surplus is transferred or a candidate is eliminated and a number of candidates end up with an equal amount of votes once the votes have been transferred, the candidates' respective order is calculated based on a vote count at an earlier stage in proceedings at which point they still had a different amount of votes. If the number of votes gained by the candidates in all the rounds of vote counting have been the same, their respective order is determined by the original second-preference votes. If there is a tie in second-preference votes, the number of third-preference votes etc. the candidates gained is inspected. If, based on ballot papers, it cannot be determined what the candidates' respective order is, the candidates' respective order will be decided by lot.

§ 21d

605 A closed ballot is used in elections of party officials at the party congress.

## § 22 The Standing Committee for Party Congress Elections

610 The party congress appoints a standing committee, whose job is to prepare a proposal concerning the composition of the party executive and party council for the party congress. The composition of the standing committee must reflect a fair representation of district groups, national league organisations and national private associations.

## § 23 Member Associations' Representatives' Voting Entitlement

615 The party's member associations have the right to send, in total, 400 representatives endowed with the right to vote to the party congress. Each of these representatives casts one vote. A person can only act as a representative endowed with the right to vote of one member association.

620 Representatives endowed with the right to vote are divided between member associations based on the number of members who have paid a membership fee. Members who have paid a membership fee are those people who paid a membership fee during the previous calendar year.

625 The party executive verifies the number of members who have paid a membership fee based on the party's share of membership fees as recorded in the party's membership fee register.

Representatives endowed with the right to vote are divided into organisational bodies formed by member associations. The organisational bodies are here referred to as:

630 Each district group and those grassroots groups that are members of it together form one body  
Each league organisation and those local associations of the league organisation that are members of it together form one body  
Other member associations of the party's that do not belong to the above categories form one body

635 Representatives endowed with the right to vote are divided between organisational bodies and associations belonging to these as follows:

The total number of private individual members in the party's member associations who have paid a membership fee is calculated. The figure is the party's membership.

640 The total number of private individual members in grassroots associations that are members of each of the party's district groups who have paid a membership fee is calculated. Each member is counted only once regardless of how many associations he/she belongs to. This figure is the district's membership.

The total number of private individual members in each of the league organisations and the local associations that are members of them is calculated. Each member is counted only once regardless of how many associations he/she

645 belongs to. This figure is the league organisation's membership.  
The total number of private individual members in the party's other member associations is calculated. Each member is counted only once regardless of how many associations he/she belongs to. This figure is the joint membership of other associations.

650 If the same private individual member belongs to two of the memberships of the organisational bodies described above, he/she is counted as half a member of each. A private individual member belonging to three is counted as a third of a member of each, a private individual member belonging to four a fourth of a member etc.  
Each district group and league organisation receives one representative of its own.  
The number of representatives left (400 minus the amount of district groups and league organisations) is referred to as the "representative places to be distributed according to membership". These are distributed as follows:

655 The ratio of the membership of each district, the membership of the league organisation and the joint membership of other associations to the party's membership is calculated.  
The ratio-determined share of representative places to be distributed according to membership are calculated on the part of each district group, the league organisation and other associations.  
Each district group, league organisation and organisational body for other associations receives the amount of

660 representatives that corresponds to the total figure determined by this calculation. If there are representative places remaining, these are distributed in order of decimal size determined by this calculation. If the decimal sizes are equally large, the order is decided by lot.  
If a district group gets fewer than 6 representatives endowed with the right to vote as a result of this distribution, the total number of representatives is increased to over 400 by as many representatives as the district is short of 6,

665 with these extra representative places distributed to the district in question.  
The representative places each district group, league organisation and other associations received in this way are distributed in turn to associations belonging to each organisational body in the following way:  
One-fifth of the representative places an organisational body formed by a district group and league organisation receives is equally divided between all the associations – with private individual members who have paid a

670 membership fee – belonging to the organisational body.  
The remaining four-fifths of the organisational bodies' representative places and all the representative places of the organisational bodies formed by the party's other member associations are divided between these associations in relation to their amount of private individual members, as described in the following section.  
Each association's membership is calculated. If the same private individual member belongs to two of the same

675 organisational body's associations, he/she is counted as half a member of each. A private individual member belonging to three is counted as a third of a member of each, a private individual member belonging to four a fourth of a member etc.  
The ratio of each association's membership to that of the whole organisational body is calculated.  
The ratio-determined share of an organisational body's representative places to be distributed according to

680 membership are calculated on the part of each association.  
Each association receives the amount of representatives that corresponds to the total figure determined by this calculation. If there are representative places remaining, these are distributed in order of decimal size determined by this calculation. If the decimal sizes are equally large, the order is decided by lot.  
If a local group mentioned in § 7 belongs to the district group, and the local group's members are member

685 associations of the party operating in the municipality, this type of local group receives one representative, who is deducted from the representative places the organisational body received. The remaining representative places of an organisational body's are distributed in the manner described in Sections 7.5.1-7.5.6.  
Representatives endowed with the right to vote are chosen by quorate meetings of each association that has received representatives unless the meeting decides to delegate the choice to the association's executive.

690 If a grassroots association in a district or a local association of a league organisation has not chosen its representatives, at the latest, by the deadline determined by a quorate meeting, the selection of the association's representatives shifts from the grassroots association to the district group and from the local association of the league organisation to the league organisation.

## 695 § 24 Convening the Party Congress and its Quorum

The statutory party congress is held annually by the end of June. The party executive must send out a written invitation to all member associations of the party and supporting members, at the latest, three weeks before the party congress.

700 The party congress is quorate when it is legally convened.

## § 25 Extraordinary Party Congresses

705 The party holds an extraordinary party congress if the party executive or party council so decides or if a minimum of one-tenth of the party's members with the right to vote, in other words member associations, request in writing that the party executive call a meeting for the purpose of handling a specific issue.

## § 26 Motions

710

A private individual member of a member association of the party's, a single member association, the party executive, a working group set up by the party executive, the party council, the Green League's parliamentary group and the Green League's delegation at the European Parliament can make motions for the party congress. Each private individual member of a member association can make only one motion.

715

Motions meant for the party congress must be sent to the party executive 54 days before the party congress. The party executive must give a statement about those motions that will be placed on the party conference's list of proposals and that were received by the deadline set. This statement has to include proposals based on the motions that will be decided on by the party congress. The party congress' motions as well as the statement given by the party executive about them are sent to representatives with the right to vote who are signed up for the party congress and to the party's member associations, at the latest, three weeks before the start of the party congress.

720

Motions that have become topical at the last minute can still be sent to the party executive after that time. The party executive can, after considering the merits of the motion, bring proposals and motions straight to the congress. At their meeting preceding the party congress, the party council also has the right to suggest motions for the party executive to handle, the deadline notwithstanding.

725

## THE NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES FOR PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS

730

### § 27 Nomination of Candidates

The party's candidates for a parliamentary election are chosen in each constituency on the basis of a membership vote.

735

However, a membership vote is not mandatory if, at most, the same amount of people are nominated as the party has the right to put forward as candidates in the constituency.

The party's district group decides about the amount of candidates and their nomination.

740

### § 28 Arrangements for Membership Votes

A membership vote takes the form of a postal vote in which proportional representation is used, in accordance with § 33.

745

A membership vote is carried out by choosing three-quarters – rounded up if not a whole number – of the number of candidates that can be put up for election in a constituency. A meeting of the district group, however, can replace a number of those chosen, corresponding to, at most, a quarter – round down if not a whole number – of the number of candidates that can be put up for election in a constituency. However, these replaceable candidates cannot be in the group of candidates that gained the most votes: this group is comprised of one-half – rounded up if not a whole number – of the number of candidates that can be put up for election in a constituency. The remaining candidates are named by the meeting of the district group or, with its authorisation, the district group's executive.

750

The result of the membership vote does not include people who, due to ineligibility, being prohibited or some other reason, cannot be put forward as a candidate.

755

Other aspects of a membership vote are dealt with according to the electoral rules approved by the party council.

### § 29 Naming Candidates for Membership Votes

760

Each of the party's member associations operating in a constituency has the right to nominate people for a membership vote. Each member association is allowed to propose the same number of people as can be nominated as candidates in the constituency. A meeting of each member association, in which a quorum is represented, makes the decision about nominating candidates for a membership vote.

765

The party executive has the right to nominate for a membership vote, at most, a number of people that corresponds to one-tenth of the number of MPs to be chosen in a given constituency.

770

If a minimum of 15 private individual members belonging to a member association operating in a constituency proposes a person, he/she must also be included in the membership vote. Additionally, these 15 people must live in that constituency. The same person can only nominate one person in this way.

A person cannot be nominated for a membership vote who is not eligible for national elections. A person must also have given written consent for his/her nomination.

775

### § 30 Participation in Membership Votes

Private individual members of the party's member associations living in the constituency in question are allowed to participate in membership votes under the following conditions: firstly, the member has to be 15 years old at the start of the year in which the membership vote is held. Moreover, he/she has to have paid a membership fee within a time period set out in the electoral rules approved by the party council.

780

## THE PARLIAMENTARY GROUP AND PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT

785

### § 31 The Parliamentary Group

The party's parliamentary group is formed by those MPs who have been chosen as the party's district groups' candidates from the persons nominated as well as by MPs whom the parliamentary group approves as members at a later stage.

790

The parliamentary group appoints representatives to the boards of governors of stated-owned companies, working groups within areas of ministry administration, expert panels, boards of governors and corresponding entities, which have requested the party be represented.

795

The parliamentary group's office must notify the party executive of the request. The party executive can, then, make a nomination proposal to the parliamentary group. Comparably, the party office must notify the parliamentary group of any such requests that the party receives.

800

The parliamentary group complies with the same rules as the party executive in relation to such nominations.

### § 32 Participation in Government and Cooperation with Other Governmental Parties

The party can be represented in the country's government and support it if the government's programme and functioning are compatible with the party's operating principles and aims.

805

The parliamentary group appoints a committee to make preparations for matters relating to governmental negotiations. The committee is headed by the party's leader, and a minimum of one-half of its other members must be proposed by the party executive to the parliamentary group. The members of this committee represent the party as governmental negotiators and have the right to attend and address those meetings of the party executive, party council and parliamentary group that handle the matters discussed in this clause.

810

Decisions concerning acceptance of the governmental programme, participation in government and cooperation with other governmental parties, and leaving the government are taken in a joint meeting of the parliamentary group and the party council where each participant has one vote. The meeting is quorate if it is co-convened by the chairperson of the parliamentary group and the chairperson of the party council and each member of the party council and the

815

parliamentary group has been informed of it. This joint meeting also decides the party's nominations for members of the Council of State.

820 Members of the party executive, the party secretary and the parliamentary group's secretary general all have the right to be present and make proposals at the joint meeting as well as to address it. Permanent employees of the party and the parliamentary group together with assistants to MPs have the right to be present at the joint meeting as well as to address it.

## 825 OTHER STATUTES

### § 33 Voting Procedure Used in Internal Party Elections

830 When there is only one place to be filled, an election takes place between all the candidates in the first round, and in the second round between the two candidates who got the most votes if none of the candidates won an absolute majority of the votes in the first round.

Proportional representation is used when there is more than one place to be filled.

835 Elections are proportional without the use of candidate lists, hence a person with the right to vote is able to vote in the election for, at most, as many candidates as there are places to be filled. Each vote cast is shared between the candidates crossed on the ballot paper, with the first candidate getting one vote, the second getting half a vote, the third getting one-third of a vote and so on. Candidates are elected in order of how many votes each received.

### 840 § 34 Gender Quotas

845 If the result of a party executive or party council election fails to satisfy the demands concerning gender quotas defined in § 13 and § 16, matters proceed thus: the candidate representing the majority gender who was chosen with the fewest votes is left unelected, while he/she is replaced by the candidate representing the minority gender who received the most votes but was not elected. This procedure is repeated as many times as is needed for the gender quota to be filled.

### § 35 Advisory Membership Votes

850 When the party executive sees a need for it, it can carry out an advisory membership vote regarding an important question. In a membership vote, private individual members of the party's member associations, who have paid a membership fee during a time specified by the party executive, have the right to vote.

855 The party executive must carry out a advisory membership vote if a minimum of two district groups or five other member associations – which have, in total, a minimum of 100 private individual members who have paid a membership fee – demand one on the same specific issue.

## CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS AND DISSOLVING THE PARTY

### 860 § 36 Changing the Party Constitution

865 At the party congress, decisions about changing the constitution and dissolving the party can be taken with a minimum of a three-quarter majority of votes cast if these matters have been mentioned in invitations to the congress.

### § 37 Dissolving the Party

870 When the party is dissolved, its resources will be used to promote the party's *raison d'être* in the way determined by the congress that decides on dissolution. At the point when the party ceases to be, the party's resources will be used for the same purpose.