



Basic Program of the Environmental Union

Preamble

A worthwhile future in an intact environment – that is what the overwhelming majority of people in the entire world wish for themselves and for future generations.

Today, with the technological progress, modern science, a high level of education and an enormous societal wealth, we have best prerequisites for a world without environmental destruction, exploitation, hunger and wars. But the entire manner of production, consumption and living is characterized by the capitalist principle of production. This leads to a ruthless over-exploitation of nature and to comprehensive environmental destruction on a global scale. Humanity is heading toward an environmental catastrophe which acutely endangers life on earth in its present form. The ecological balance which has developed over millions of years is threatening to tip.

This destructive development has not yet been stopped, although millions of people in the entire world actively support environmental protection. In the past the environmental movement has made an important contribution to developing a growing environmental consciousness. But in order to prevent a global environmental catastrophe a new quality of the environmental movement and a worldwide superior force are required to oppose the main perpetrators in corporate centres, banks and governments. The Environmental Union is determined to make its contribution.

We are searching the close cooperation between the workers' movement and the environmental movement and are joining together on the basis of trade-union principles as an environmental organization on the local, national and international level. The trade-union idea stands for the joint struggle for our existential and future interests, for a fighting spirit, solidarity and a broad, non-party affiliated common union. We advocate a societal alternative in which the unity of humanity and nature is realized.

ENVIRONMENTAL UNION

Together let us save the Earth from collapsing!

1. For maintaining the natural foundations of life

We do not want to accept the destruction of the natural foundations of life. Our primary goals are the following: We need clean water, clean air and intact soil, healthy food, workplaces that are friendly to the environment and health, a world climate favourable to human life, protection and regeneration of biodiversity, as well as of the ozone layer and the world's ecosystems, the sustainable use of natural resources, environmentally-protective cultivation methods, species-appropriate animal husbandry, landscape conservation and the protection of nature.

2. The workers' movement and the environmental movement need an Environmental Union

We are searching constructive cooperation with existing environmental associations and initiatives, as well as with industrial and service unions which primarily take a stand for the social and economic interests of dependent employees.

Especially the workforces in the big industrial plants, mines and transport companies are connected through their work in a worldwide network and have many and diverse experiences. They can make a big contribution to the struggle against a global environmental catastrophe, if they become aware of their being part of the environmental movement. The cooperation of the environmental union with the traditional unions corresponds to the insight that today the solution of the social problems is only possible in union with the solution of the ecological problems.

The struggle for jobs, for a production and working conditions which make people ill, as well as the struggle for saving the natural environment must have a firm place in every union. We support labor disputes for social demands, environmentally compatible technologies and production methods which are protective of health. We support the right to strike in all matters and free political activity on an anti-fascist basis.

3. For a life in unison with nature

We welcome, support and promote a conscious change of behaviour in the spirit of sustainable environmental pro-

tection. But the submission of the entire society to the capitalist, environmentally- destructive profit principle separates humanity and nature. That can only be solved socially and not alone through individual changes in behaviour.

We want a humane, just society without exploitation of humans and nature. Central characteristics of a society free from exploitation, oppression and destruction of the environment are worldwide resource-saving closed-loop economy, sustainable production on the basis of renewable energies as well as a responsible consumption.

4. We will not let ourselves be deceived

Gigantic international corporations and banks like to present themselves as the greatest environmentalists. They practice "greenwashing" with terms like "Clean Diesel", or spread the illusion that we could "adapt to climate change". However, in reality they oppose the necessary measures to save nature and humankind, even with the help of governments, and stop at nothing. With smaller concessions they divert attention from the necessary fundamental change of direction.

The UN climate summits have altogether failed. From the Kyoto climate agreement in 1997 until 2013 the global CO2 emissions have increased by 61%.

We reject "greenwashing" as well as the right to pollute our earth with the help of emission trade.

5. Environmental protection knows no borders – think globally, act and organize locally, nationally and world-wide

Environmental protection is a worldwide task. People are affected by environmental destruction in different ways. We promote the unity of all people regardless of origin.

We draw upon the experiences of different social movements, learn from each other and strive for common action. In the cooperation of the workers' movement, the women's, youth, peace and environmental movements we see a great potential of active environmental protection.

The international women's movement enhances the environmental movement by criticizing the destruction of the foundations of life by the advancing environmental destruction.

Young and old together! The future of humankind lies in the hands of the youth – it is of utmost importance that we win them for the environmental union.

We organize resistance as well as mutual assistance and solidarity for the victims of environmental destruction.

This has already become a main cause for the flow of refugees. We advocate calling environmental criminals to account for their crimes and for punishing them.

The environmental union systematically develops international relations for the coordination of the worldwide environmental movement. In this spirit we promote building up partnerships on all continents. Every single resistance is part of the entire movement.

6. Whoever wants to change the world needs knowledge

We support and demand critical research and education in all questions of the environment and society in the spirit of the goals of the environmental union. We oppose the manipulation of public opinion through the mass-media.

We support and organize cultural and leisure events to strengthen environmental consciousness, solidarity, faith in our collective power and optimism for a worthwhile future.

We base our work on advanced scientific knowledge, work in specialized work groups around certain topics and also publish specialized literature.

7. Being organized in solidarity makes us strong

We are democratic, militant, non-party affiliated, open in world outlook and financially independent.

We organize binding collaboration on the basis of broad democracy and mutual acceptance. All people who support the idea of humanity and nature living in harmony have the chance to contribute their skills and wishes. We support and practice solidarity and a creative culture of debate.

We support and organize demonstrations, strikes and various forms of resistance to achieve the necessary changes. No environmental activist shall be left alone. We are in solidarity with people who expose environmental crimes.

We aim for an equal union of people coming from different political and ideological views on the basis of the struggle for our common aims. Fascists, racists and religious fanatics do not have a place in the environmental union.

We finance our work through membership fees and donations.

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The Environmental Union fights for the following main demands:

1. For environmentally-compatible and healthy conditions for production, living and working conditions! We need jobs, social rights and the protection of our health and the environment!

2. For drastic immediate measures to protect the climate! The emission of CO₂ and other greenhouse gases needs to be dramatically reduced!

For a rapid and complete shift of energy supply to renewable energies!

Stop fracking! - Ban fracking worldwide!

Stop brown coal surface mining!

Ban the production of chemicals which damage the ozone layer!

For the expansion of long-distance and local transportation by rail! Increased use of freight transportation by rail!

For the free use of public transportation!

For the fastest possible transition to a transportation system which refrains from the use of fossil fuels!

3. For closed-loop economy instead of throw-away production – Promote waste avoidance and ban waste incineration!

For a pilot installation for cryogenic recycling to completely recycle synthetic materials, electronic waste and car tires!

Against the over-exploitation of natural resources and destructive extraction methods!

Ban the underground storage of toxic wastes!

4. Stop the destructive clearing of forests and rainforests!

For large-scale species-appropriate reforestation!

5. Stop the further poisoning, waste accumulation and overfishing of the world's oceans!

Increased protection from the poisoning of drinking water!

Clean water is a human right!

6. For climate and environmentally-friendly ecological cultivation methods, healthy food and an effective struggle against hunger and poverty!

End the speculation with food and agricultural raw materials!

End land grabbing!

For the protection of nature and its diversity, species-appropriate animal husbandry and active protection of animals! Ban mass animal husbandry!

Ban genetic manipulation in the production of food!

7. For an immediate shut-down and disposal of all nuclear plants worldwide at the expense of the operators! Ban and

destruction of all nuclear, biological and chemical weapons!

8. For a legal right to strike in all matters! For the right to resistance and civil disobedience!

9. Elimination of environmental damages at the expense of those who caused them!

10. Resistance against all free trade agreements which undermine environmental, working and consumer standards and erode social and democratic rights instead of expanding them!

11. Fight for an environment-friendly and affordable basic supply of clean water, healthy food, renewable energies, public transportation, healthcare, education and living accommodations at the cost of profits!

12. Solidarity and aid for victims of environmental destruction! For the recognition of environmental destruction as a reason for asylum!

13. Expand and support independent environmental research and education as well as environmental medicine!

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The basic program and demands were passed in June 2016 at the federal conference of delegates in Berlin. These are part of the profile of the Environmental Union. For practical reasons the basic program and the demands are two separate documents. This allows demands to be updated and supplemented without having to change the basic program.

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