



The Greens | European Free Alliance
in the European Parliament

Alexander Langer: 20 years later A visionary witness of our time

Alexander Langer was born in Sterzing/Vipiteno in South Tyrol on 22 February 1946.

A journalist, translator, teacher, from a young age he became involved with journals, associations and citizen activism.

From 1978 on he was elected to the Provincial Council of Bolzano for three legislatures.

In the 1980s, he was among the proponents of the Green political movement in Italy and Europe, which he saw as an innovative and cross-cutting movement among the traditional parties.

Elected to the European Parliament in 1989, he became president of the newly formed Green Group. He was especially committed to a peace-based foreign policy, for fairer North-South and East-West relations, for an ecological transformation of society, economy and lifestyles. He participated in official trips and missions to Israel, Brazil, Russia, Argentina, Albania, Egypt, Romania and Bulgaria.

After the fall of the Berlin Wall, he became increasingly committed to countering the growing danger of nationalisms. He supported reconciliation efforts in the territories of the former Yugoslavia. With the "Verona Forum", he offered a space for dialogue to hundreds of peace activists in Verona, Strasbourg, Vienna, Brussels, Paris, Tuzla, Skopje and Zagreb.

On 26 June 1995, he was in Cannes with other Members of the European Parliament to deliver a dramatic appeal to the heads of State and Government: "Europe will either die or be reborn in Sarajevo".

In 1981 and 1991, Alexander Langer refused to participate in the nominational census which reinforced the policy of ethnic division in his region. With this pretext, in May 1995, he was excluded without too much scandal as a candidate to be Mayor of Bolzano.

He decided to take his life on 3 July 1995 at the age of 49.

He rests in the little cemetery of Telves/Tesfes (BZ), next to his parents.

For further information: Kronbichler, Florian: Was gut war: Ein Alexander-Langer-Abc, Raetia, Bozen, 2000.