

Manifesto for the European Parliament elections 2014

real

change



Green Party
for the common good



Jean Lambert and **Keith Taylor** are our existing Green MEPs. Jean was first elected in 1999 and Keith took the seat previously held by **Caroline Lucas** in 2010, when she was elected MP for Brighton Pavilion.

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A EUROPE FOR THE COMMON GOOD

Too often, the story we are told about our future is one of pain and decline: austerity, falling wages and climate crisis; unemployment, rising housing costs and depleting pension pots. But it doesn't have to be this way. It is well within our power to build for ourselves and our children a better world than the one we find ourselves in now. We need to act together, and choose a fundamental change of direction.

Our soaring inequality is not an inevitability. It is the result of political decisions. Our dependence on fossil fuels is not a necessity. There are alternatives. Austerity is not the only option, and for those who want a fairer future it's not an option at all.

The wealthiest have been allowed to dodge vast quantities of tax. Bailouts handed billions to the banks, but did nothing to stop them from gambling away the wealth of our nation. They are re-inflating old bubbles and flogging our assets to those who caused the crisis – handing our Royal Mail to hedge funds, our NHS to those who profiteer from illness and our countryside to those who will frack it.

The economic crisis, the environmental crisis and the democratic crisis we face are intertwined. We can't save the planet when the world is run by those who profit from destroying it. We can't solve poverty when the decisions are made by the wealthy.

The Green Party has always called for a different path.

If we invest, we can provide good, stable jobs for everyone. If we stand up to vested interests, we can avoid the worst of the climate crisis. If we ensure that the powerful pay their fair share, like the rest of us,

then we can have the best schools, hospitals and care homes in human history.

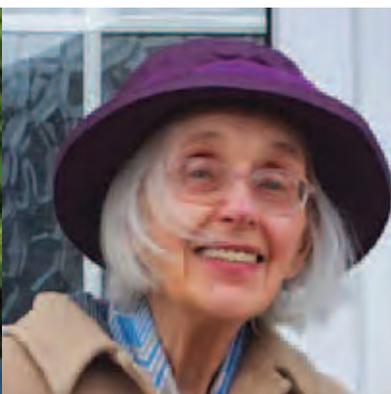
If we take back power from big businesses and their lobbyists, we can build an economy that works for the common good. If we deepen our democracy, we can build strong communities where we look out for each other and where everyone is treated as equals.

There are affordable homes to be built, a generation to educate, a zero-carbon revolution to be delivered. In short, there is work to be done. There are people desperate to do it. Yet our bankers are allowed to gamble our money on toxic debts and toxic fuels rather than investing our future, and our leaders are rich in corporate donations but poor in ideas.

In order to meet these great challenges, we need to co-operate with our neighbours.

Across Europe, social movements have grown from the ashes of broken lives and broken economies. Students are on the march, workers are organising and villages are stopping frackers in their tracks. In city squares and in public meetings, in workplaces and on the streets, new ideas are stirring. And the EU is the forum through which the peoples of Europe can work together to build a better future, together.

And we'll be there. We'll be there to stand up to hired voices of the rich and work for an EU that puts people and our shared future before the profits of the wealthiest. We shall be there to ensure the EU hears the voices of the many, not the few, and that it plays its part in building a fairer future for its people. **With your vote, this is the Europe the Greens will work to build: a Europe for the common good.**



AN ECONOMY FOR THE COMMON GOOD

Fiscal policy: fairer taxes, fighting austerity and building a green economy.

The Green Party support a fairer tax system, in which the wealthiest contribute more and no one can dodge their responsibility. We oppose austerity: the poorest should not have to pay for a crisis they didn't create. The solution to a collapse caused by banks is not to cut funding for librarians and care workers. It is to invest in building a fairer, low carbon economy which doesn't rely on the financial sector or on scraping the bottom of the fossil fuel barrel.

Green MEPs will argue for investment in our future economy, not the cuts, deregulation and privatisation which are destroying communities across Europe.

Austerity makes the most vulnerable pay for a crisis they did not cause. It shatters lives and frays the fabric which binds our communities. It has increased unemployment, extended the economic crisis, and done nothing to solve any of the true challenges faced by our society: inequality and joblessness; the housing crisis and the environmental crisis.

Greens stand with those across Europe who have argued for a different approach: fairer taxes and action to ensure no one dodges them; investing in jobs in the industries of the future and recognising the vital contribution made by public services; debt audits and, sometimes, cancellations; using quantitative easing to deliver investment in the infrastructure we need, not encourage ever more speculation.

The EU should support green and social investment to fund a just transition to a fairer, more sustainable economy based on people doing work with which we truly enrich each other's lives and which delivers the zero-carbon revolution needed to prevent catastrophic climate change.

Green MEPs will work within the EU to:

- Take action on tax evasion and avoidance. EU governments lose a trillion Euros a year to tax dodging¹. Greens will argue for the EU and its member states to take action by pursuing stricter international agreements and

changes in national and EU rules. This will include:

- End double taxation agreements with tax havens, so that companies registered in havens also have to pay tax in the EU.
- Pass, and work towards full enforcement of, amendments to the Parent Subsidiary Directive including a general anti-abuse provision and denying tax benefits to companies making use of hybrid loan instruments.
 - pushing forward international negotiations to close tax loopholes.
 - requiring country by country reporting of turnover, profit and tax paid.
 - pursuing through the courts those who break tax laws in any member state;
 - making white collar crime, including tax evasion, a higher priority for Europol (see under 'common European policing').
- Phase out the European Value Added Tax. Currently, the EU requires member states to collect VAT, in part as a contribution to the budget of the EU. This is a regressive tax, because poorer people spend a higher portion of their income (rather than saving it). Green MEPs will argue for mandatory VAT to be scrapped, for governments to be allowed to determine how they raise this share of their contribution to EU budgets.
- End public fossil fuel subsidies as agreed in international commitments, such as the lack of fuel duty on aeroplanes
- Increase funding for EU regional development funds and asking the UK government to hand over control of spending to the level of government most local to the region being funded – in practice, the local councils in West Wales and Cornwall. The Conservative led UK government has been instrumental in delivering a 5% cut in EU funding to West Wales, Cornwall and other impoverished regions across Europe. Greens will work to protect this funding.

¹ <http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/04/12/us-eu-tax-vanrompuy-idUSBRE93B0KC20130412>

FOOD BANK BRITAIN

As part of his work exposing the effects of austerity, Keith produced a report on the surge in demand for food banks in his constituency. The report, called Food Bank Britain, revealed a 60% increase in the number of people using food banks in 2013 compared to 2012.

Green MEPs Keith Taylor and Jean Lambert were instrumental in persuading the European Commission to include poverty-reduction targets in its EU2020 Strategy.

VULNERABILITY REPORT

Highlighting the experience of the most vulnerable in the European Parliament, Jean worked closely with civil society NGOs on a report to reflect the real experience of some of Europe's most vulnerable people. The report was passed with overwhelming support from the Parliament and sent a clear message that austerity measures must be assessed for their social impact and not only a narrow economic effect. All must be able to access healthcare, care services and basic living support.

Making finance the servant of the real economy

The banking system which failed in 2007/8 has not been fixed. It must be radically changed. Finance must be made the servant of the real economy, not the inflator of ever more bubbles. We believe that states should recover for themselves the power of money creation, and not allow it to remain in the hands of private banks, whose motivation is private profit rather than the common good. We also need to build in Britain and across Europe a new manufacturing sector, investing in the tools of tomorrow's economy.

To do this will require a banking sector which invests in long term productivity, not the short term profit of a derivative gamble. Greens will argue for measures which cut the role of our financial districts and replace these with measures which will encourage investment in local manufacturing and the real economy. The EU, who have been so involved in the bailing out of many of these banks, has a key role to play and the European Central Bank, which controls the Euro, will be vital.

Green MEPs will:

Use our public and central banks to build a better economy:

- Call on the European Central Bank and Bank of England to finance jobs building the infrastructure needed to deliver the transition to a low-carbon economy through a programme of Green Quantitative Easing,.
- Align the lending of the European Investment Bank with the social and environmental aims of the EU.
- Support measures to stop the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development financing fossil fuel projects and other environmentally and socially damaging projects and instead contribute to the financing of a zero-carbon revolution.

Build a banking system which works for the common good

- Work to stop banks from gambling away on the money markets the wealth created by us all. Green MEPs will argue for a Financial Transaction Tax that includes all of the countries of the EU (not just the 11 that have signed up), and eventually joins with other global financial markets; and which includes a 'Spahn mechanism' whereby transaction tax rates can be immediately increased in times of speculative attack. This will curb damaging high frequency trading, divert money towards the real economy, and reduce the risk that the markets attack already struggling economies². Only around 8% of lending by banks in 2010 went to productive investment³. Unless we change this, we can't mend our economy.
- Continue to fight to curb bankers' bonuses.
- Call, as a first step, for the adoption of EU financial reforms, breaking down banks until they are small enough that their failure doesn't risk the whole economy, and

FINANCIAL TRANSACTION TAX

Greens in the European Parliament have been leading proponents of a financial transaction tax (FTT) aiming to tackle the problems associated with speculative and high frequency trading while also raising revenue for public services across the continent. Greens succeeded in improving a Commission proposal in several respects.

They made sure that banks would be unable to avoid the tax by moving to other financial centres. If a bank is legally domiciled in the EU it will have to pay regardless of where its trades are transacted. Greens also introduced an amendment on the use of FTT revenue for own resources in order to provide a revenue stream for European Parliament initiatives. They backed the idea of some Member States implementing the FTT even if others do not support it.

CAPPING BANKERS' BONUSES

Greens succeeded in bringing about a Europe-wide cap on bankers. Keith and Jean voted for cash bonuses to be sharply reduced. As part of the push for greater equality, Jean has been working with the High Pay Commission to see what the next steps might be. Despite fierce opposition from corporate lobbyists, Greens have been instrumental in bringing about powerful regulation that reduces the risks in banking and brings increased transparency to the finance industry.

- raising capital requirements to make the system safer.
- Support moves towards a separation of retail and investment banking.
- Work for a diverse banking system made up of regional, co-operative and municipal banks; green investment banks and credit unions.
- Demand greater transparency in bank lending decisions.
- Work for a tightening of laws banning irresponsible banking. All financial products should be screened. Those with no social purpose should be banned.
- Work for more EU level support for policing of bank regulations to ensure that, when rules are broken, criminal bankers are arrested (see 'policing').
- Work for more international co-operation in the regulation of international banking, including the establishment of an international forum to discuss new financial products.
- Continue to build on the regulatory steps being discussed in the market in financial instruments directive in order to secure stricter regulation of derivatives markets to clamp down on speculation in basics such as food.

2 <http://www.newstatesman.com/blogs/economics/2012/08/robin-hood-tax-will-stop-machines-wiping-out-market>

3 <http://www.neweconomics.org/issues/entry/monetary-policy>

- Terminate trade deals pushing the liberalisation of financial markets. Banks should operate on local rather than global scales.
- Work towards better regulation of pension funds. Currently the money invested in pension funds is too volatile a capital flow, destabilising the global economy and risking people's retirement savings.
- Require pension funds to take into account the universal investor principle in all of their investments, whereby they consider the broader long term social, environmental and economic impacts of their investments because, as long term investors across the whole economy, they will be hit by these too.

Fighting for debt justice

Borrowing to invest can be the path to a better future. But too often, debt becomes a chain to imprison people and their governments and has been used to impose austerity on communities across Europe and the world. Much of the debt owed by the world's poorest countries is owed to companies and countries in the EU. Too often, across the world, the money was borrowed by oppressive regimes and used for the benefit of dictators, not of the people who live in destitution as they attempt to pay it back. There is not enough clarity in what is owed to whom, why from when, and therefore whether repayment is just.

Likewise, the debts owed by some European governments, such as the Greek government, are not entirely clear or accountable. In the case of what have become known as the PIIGS countries, those who bare no responsibility for accruing debt are often being forced, in part by the EU, into destitution in ill-fated attempts to pay it off. This is unjust, entrenches poverty and yet again shifts wealth from the productive economy to the financial districts. It takes two to make a debt, yet the current system is based on the punishment of the borrower and the bailing out of the lender.

Greens will continue to work for debt justice in Europe and globally, where peoples are only expected to pay off those debts that they accrued themselves through fair process. We will continue to stand with movements in Greece, Spain and across Europe fighting against unjust debt settlements.

Green MEPs will argue for:

- An audit of sovereign debts owed to EU institutions such as the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and European Investment Bank, and cancellation of any debts found to be illegitimate.
- A debt standstill mechanism, in which the EU would protect struggling indebted nations from their creditors for a period so that they can have breathing space in which to work out their debts in a more orderly fashion. This mechanism should be immediately applied to Greece, and other nations ought to be able to apply for such

protection.

- The cancellation of illegitimate and unsustainable debts owed by EU countries. To finally resolve the European debt crisis, a conference of creditors and debtors should agree reductions in debt to a sustainable level, ensuring that the costs of this restructure fall primarily on the banks and financial institutions which lent recklessly.
- The EU to work globally to define illegitimate debt and establish a framework for cancelling illegitimate and unsustainable debt, including supporting the creation of a fair and transparent global debt workout mechanism. Such a debt workout mechanism should be independent, and so not run by a lending institution such as the IMF.
- Stronger environmental, social and human rights guidelines for lending and credit guarantees from export credit agencies and EU institutions, to be in line with the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) principles on responsible lending. EU governments should not be subsidising, for example, the sale of arms to oppressive regimes.

REGULATING CREDIT RATINGS AGENCIES

Greens in Brussels have been pushing for a major re-shaping of the way that credit ratings agencies work. Greens insist that rating agencies should not be allowed to hold shares in companies they rate, since this represents a conflict of interest. As another measure to combat conflicts of interest, Greens have pushed for the finance firms having their debt rated to be restricted in their choice of agency by a rotation mechanism.

Whose economy? Defending public services, extending democracy, challenging big business

Public services and natural monopolies ought to remain in public hands. Consumer co-operatives, worker co-operatives, community or local council control and other forms of democratic ownership should be supported to expand throughout our economy.

Privatisation and part privatisation have contributed to Europe's economic difficulties in recent years, yet they continue apace as those who benefit most from them gain more wealth and so more power. In the UK, most of this privatisation has been led by the our domestic governments, including Labour, Liberal Democrats and Conservatives.

We should go in the opposite direction. We should bring infrastructure such as water supplies, the national grid and railways back into public ownership. Between 70% and 80%⁴ of the public want this to happen. Yet Labour, Tories and Lib Dems are too in hoc to those who profit from these

⁴ <http://weownit.org.uk/blog/80-want-public-ownership-option>



Andrew Cooper, European election candidate for Yorkshire and the Humber, defending the NHS.

privatisations to stand with the people of the country. We also support measures to significantly expand other forms of democratic ownership, including establishing co-operative and municipal banks, handing powers to local authorities to municipalise services, and the introduction of a workers' right to buy their company. A handful of vast corporations have too much power over our economy and our lives. Green MEPs will work to change that.

Green MEPs will:

- Defend our public services, including health and education, from moves towards privatisation in international trade deals (see more under 'fair trade').
- Oppose EU competition laws which make it harder to renationalise and which require the tendering of services to the private sector.
- Defend the principle that public services in any EU country should be available to all EU citizens in that country.
- Work towards changes to company law to require that corporations consider social and environmental impacts on their stakeholders as well as the profits for their shareholders.
- Support the right of workers to buy their firm as a co-op (see under workers' rights).
- Oppose any measures forcing European countries to sell off public assets and services, as has happened in Greece.
- Oppose the European Commission's promotion of privatisation and the free market.
- Promote co-operatives and other social enterprises and push for the use of planning, taxation, procurement, advice, and company law to help to develop co-operatives and other social enterprises.

Decent jobs for all

Unemployment, underemployment and unstable employment are too high in the UK and across Europe. They destroy communities, families and lives. Too often, politicians are quick to blame the unemployed for their situation. But Greens recognise that unemployment and underemployment are the results of failures in economic policy. They are a symptom of a system which believes it is possible for a human being to be redundant.

Unemployment and underemployment have hugely damaging effects on people. As well as impoverishing, they impact on our health, life expectancy and happiness. Less discussed is unstable employment. In the UK, more people now believe they will lose their job than at any point since records began⁵. This belief leads to stress and to an unwillingness to negotiate pay rises and better conditions. When jobs are lost, the damage this can do to people, their families and their communities is immense.

The main solutions to these problems are to end austerity, ensure investment in the industries of the future and to introduce a citizens' basic income to ensure income stability in people's lives and that contributions to society are valued beyond just those which turn a cash profit. However, in the short term, it is important to create stable, fulfilling jobs, particularly jobs for young people.

Green MEPs will:

- Support the EU's funding for the Youth Employment Initiative, and calls for Youth Guarantee jobs schemes across Europe. We should ensure that every young person is offered a job or further training within four months of leaving permanent education (though they shouldn't be required to accept it).
- Support expansion of the EU social fund so that it can further support work tackling youth unemployment and

⁵ <http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/socsi/ses2012/>

combatting social exclusion.

- Argue for a permanent Youth Unemployment Task Force, sharing best practice across Europe and monitoring changes in the structure of the labour market across Europe.
- Demand that the European Central Bank prioritises unemployment alongside inflation in the setting of monetary policy for the Euro. Whilst this doesn't directly affect the UK, the impacts of mass youth unemployment in our nearest neighbours are felt across the channel.

Standing up for workers' rights

One key function of the European Union has been to harmonise workers' rights across Europe. This helps to prevent a race to the bottom, where each country scrambles to cut rights to make themselves more competitive for foreign capital.

Where the EU has debated rights at work, Green MEPs have stood with the trades union movement across Europe to protect and extend the rights of workers. However, workers' rights have been significantly eroded in recent years, particularly in the UK. The rise of insecure labour has made trade union organising harder and has put more people into precarious positions. Attacks on trade unions, particularly in the UK, have led to the stagnation of wages at the core of our economic crisis. Green MEPs have been proud to stand with workers in the chamber of the European Parliament and on picket lines across the country. They will continue to do so.

Jean Lambert MEP has pushed repeatedly for International Labour Organisation treaties and conventions to be incorporated into EU law.

DECENT PAY FOR ALL

Both Keith Taylor and Jean Lambert have supported campaigns to ensure everyone in their regions gets a living wage, and Jean Lambert has a key advocate of the European Anti-Poverty Network, a proposal for a Framework Directive on a Guaranteed Minimum Income.

Green MEPs will work within the EU to

Democratic workplaces:

- Encourage worker ownership and co-operatives by supporting member states in introducing a workers' right to buy their company.
- Encourage through public procurement new, democratic models of corporate ownership, such as cooperatives.
- Push for legislation to mandate democratic worker participation in the boards of all corporations⁶.

The right to organise:

- Call for workers to be allowed to ballot for industrial action on whatever grounds they see fit – the right of workers to democratically choose to remove their labour should not be restricted.
- Crack down on blacklisting and any discrimination against workers for unionising.
- Provide information and support for small businesses to help them recognise a trade union.
- Call for a specific right, which cannot be waived, to join a trade union, to have an independent union as chosen by employees recognised in your workplace, to be represented by that union, and not to be discriminated against as a result of membership.
- Ensure all statutory employment rights which are granted to 'employees' are extended to all 'workers'. This will close the loop hole through which agency workers are frequently excluded from employment rights.

Working hours and stable employment:

- Support people to work the number of hours they want to. Too many lives are blighted with either underwork or overwork. The former leads to impoverishment and boredom. The latter prevents us from seeing our families, participating in our communities and expressing ourselves as humans as well as workers. Greens will therefore push for measures supporting people to reduce the number of hours they work if they want to, whilst protecting those who need more hours through measures such as a requirement that a company seeking additional hours of labour offer them to any qualified part time employees first.
- End opt outs within the EU working time directive, which are too often in practice exploited by employers.
- Ensure more stable employment. Whilst it is reasonable to need some degree of flexibility from a workforce, it is equally reasonable for workers to expect to be able to plan from month to month. Green MEPs will work for EU rules requiring:
 - That all contracts state the number of hours contracted;
 - That overtime on top of the core hours in a worker's contract cannot exceed 25% of the time in their core hours;
 - That for each hour of overtime requested, the employee must receive a day's notice.

Greens will support:

- A directive on a European minimum income.
- Europe-wide maximum pay ratios for any one company.
- A European charter on internships, outlining minimum standards including that work should be paid.
- End discrimination and harassment in workplaces

⁶ <http://www.economist.com/node/21552567>

Greens will call on the EU to:

- Better ensure equal pay for equal work irrespective of gender, age, race, or any other arbitrary factor.
- Demand legal changes to make it easier for women to take equal pay cases, including in groups if they so wish.
- Demonstrate best practice in recruitment to EU institutions.
- Support the introduction of gender quotas on boards of directors.
- Better workplaces for parents
- Expand the total amount of parental leave to a total of 23 months, shared between parents, paid at a minimum of 90% salary, which will be covered by the state up to a reasonable level for small companies.
- Jobs you can build a life around

Greens will support:

- Guarantee statutory time off for education, public service, and voluntary work.
- The introduction of a carers' leave directive.
- Moves to better support the protection of health and safety in the work place.
- An end to exploitative contracts such as unpaid internships and zero-hours contracts.
- Equal work opportunities for persons with disabilities, in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with disabilities

International workers' rights

Green MEPs will:

- Support through trade deals, international agreements and the regulation of international companies operating in the EU the right of workers across the world to join trades unions and to organise themselves.
- Encourage the EU to work globally and within the EU for the establishment of a fair and accountable international labour dispute settlement mechanism.

Consumer rights: ensuring we can trust what we buy

EU regulations are key to protecting us when we buy goods and services.

Green MEPs will:

- Continue to work to ensure that the products we buy are safe, and do what they say they will.
- Demand higher energy efficiency standards for products sold in Europe and better labelling for energy standards.
- Demand better health labelling of products sold in the EU and that any imported products containing GMOs or

products from animals fed on GMOs are labelled as such.

- Continue to work to ensure that products sold in the EU do not contain dangerous chemicals (see under 'health').

Fair trade, building a better economy

The exchange of products and services across Europe and the world can enrich all of our lives. But free trade means freeing the powerful to exploit the vulnerable. We see this when chain stores squash local competition with loss leaders before raising prices. We see it between EU countries: the policy of blindness of the Common Market to asymmetry of trade within the EU must take its share of the blame for the European economic collapse. Germany's trade surplus and Greece's trade deficit are not unrelated.

We see this exploitation in the EU's treatment of countries in the global South too, as too often we force them to accept terms which perpetuate their impoverishment. At the same time, trade deals with wealthy countries including the USA and Canada impose policies upon European citizens for which we have never voted.

Greens argue for a different approach. We support fair trade, not free trade. We support the rights of impoverished countries to protect their industries and their workers and to determine their own economic futures. Where goods can be supplied locally, trade for trade's sake can be counterproductive – centralising power in the hands of middle-men and depending on fossil fuels. Where goods cannot be supplied locally, we should ensure fair exchange.

Britain needs to build a base of products we can export, diversifying out of finance. Trade, particularly with our neighbours in the EU, will be key to the rebuilding of our economy. But this cannot happen if our neighbours are struggling.

Green MEPs will:

- Oppose any elements of any trade deals, including the current EU/US trade deal (the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership - TTIP), which threaten to weaken protections for workers, consumers, citizens or the environment in the EU, its member states or trading partners. Health, workers' rights, consumer rights, women's rights, indigenous rights, environmental protection, data protection, agriculture, food, cultural rights and biotech should be protected by our trade deals, not sold off. Some areas, including health, pre-18 education, and water, should be protected entirely from involvement in any trade negotiations.
- TTIP removes vast powers from member state parliaments and judicial systems, and so from the citizens of EU countries. It threatens to exacerbate inequalities within the EU and give corporations huge powers over our public services. It will encourage the privatisation and monetisation of a range of services, which could include education and healthcare, not to mention further deregulation of banking. Green MEPs will continue to oppose such deals.

- Oppose trade deals, such as the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, which allow private companies to take legal action against governments for democratically chosen laws and rules via the I-S dispute settlement mechanism. Laws should be set by parliaments and judged by courts, not set in secret negotiations in trade deals, and adjudicated by non-transparent international tribunals. Citizens of any country should, however, be able to pursue both companies and countries who have behaved in ways which violate their human rights in European courts.
 - Work for trade systems within Europe and with countries outside Europe based on solidarity. Elected governments should be able to regulate imports, exports and investments. The poorest countries should be treated with particular care.
 - Economic Partnership Agreements with African, Caribbean and Pacific region countries have too often pushed unfair trade deals onto already impoverished countries, requiring them to offer large Western corporations free access to their markets often extracting profits from those countries rather than allowing them to be reinvested locally, outcompeting local indigenous industries before they have a chance to grow and, often, preventing governments and local people from instituting protections against corporate exploitation.
 - Greens would instead work to make trade systems built on the principles of democracy and solidarity, which would allow impoverished countries to protect, develop and subsidise their own industries, set their own regulations, and encourage local, internal, and regional trade as and when they see fit.
 - Push for trade deals in which partners agree to help ensure companies meet each other's social, labour and environmental standards. The EU should not be dictating to other countries or regions exactly what these rules ought to be, but we should likewise not be allowing our companies to breach them.
 - Encourage the EU to abandon European tariff escalation on processed tropical products – helping producers and companies in exporting developing countries to earn the added value for processing the products they have grown.
 - Work towards fairer distribution of incomes along global supply chains. The current global trade system is characterised by low paid workers producing, transporting and selling products, with high paid company executives and middle managers making up the majority of the cost of what we buy despite contributing more to the dominance of their company than the improvement of our goods and services. By supporting the democratisation of workplaces and therefore more equal pay, Greens will drive up wages for the lowest paid workers in the world.
 - Amend EU treaties to allow and encourage capital controls. The freedom of movement of capital increases power for ever fewer large companies rather than economic resilience and justice. Where governments wish to restrict capital flows, they ought to be allowed and encouraged to do so. Current EU rules preventing any regulation of the movement of capital allow for the accumulation of power in the hands of the few. As long as capital is more mobile than labour, standards can be driven down to statutory minimums.
 - Ensure that companies incorporated or doing business in the EU can be held legally accountable for the actions of their subsidiaries overseas.
 - Ensure that companies selling products in the EU have a duty to ensure transparency in their supply chains, that there are no breaches of human rights or ILO labour standards in the production of their goods, and that trade unions are allowed to organise in their work places and are supported in reporting any breaches of labour rights.
 - Require the tightening of EU legislation around mandatory reporting by large companies of their global supply chains and of specific data relating to their environmental and social impact.
 - Tighten EU competition law by allowing member states to prevent foreign acquisition of key industries, through better monitoring of predatory commercial practices and by strengthening Mergers & Acquisitions.
 - Push for stronger measures to prevent predatory trading practices such as price dumping, which can have devastating impacts on domestic markets, particularly in the poorest countries.
 - Better regulate and stop promotion by the EC of Foreign Direct Investment both from and to EU member states. Foreign Direct Investment is often promoted as a silver bullet for a country's economic problems. But its flip side is that foreign investors secure the profits from the labour of the country they are investing in, and will only invest if in the long term they believe they can take more wealth out of the country than they put into it.
- The EU is both the world's biggest investor abroad, and the biggest recipient of foreign direct investment globally. The European Commission sees attracting investment from overseas as one of its key roles.
- Green MEPs will
- Challenge the promotion of the idea that foreign direct investment is a silver bullet, proposing instead that domestic and democratised financial industries should support investment in their productive economies;
 - Work for better regulation of investment to ensure that impoverished communities are not exploited, and that they have given pre, prior and informed consent for investment deals before they take place.
 - Ensure that investors are seen as a part of the supply chain and so held accountable for any breaches of labour,

human rights or environmental standards that take place in it.

- Use its powers to restrict the arms trade. Whilst it is for global treaties and national governments to stop the arms trade, the EU, which operates as a trade block, must play its part.

Democratic trade deals

- Ensure that only national parliaments and the European parliament can initiate trade deals. The situation whereby only the unelected Commission can initiate and take part in these processes but for a veto is undemocratic.
- Make all trade deals transparently rather than behind closed doors. They impact on the lives of Europeans as much as any policy, and should be negotiated accountably in the open, not in secret.
- Involve the people of Europe in trade deals. The current situation where companies with a profit interest in deals are allowed access to negotiations and to secret documents, while NGOs with a public interest in them are shut out, must end. Civil society should be actively included in discussions around trade negotiations, and where the opinions of industries are sought, it ought to be the trade union representatives from that industry who are consulted first, as it is they who have the most interest in long term, stable employment in their sector.
- Arrange an independently conducted Human Rights and Sustainability Impact Assessment of each trade agreement, to be completed and debated in Parliament before the agreement is signed and ratified.

Ensure all trade deals are reversible. Many trade deals regularly bind policy in perpetuity. This is fundamentally undemocratic.

Currency

The Green Party of England and Wales has always been against UK membership of the Euro. We do not believe that monetary policy – which must be sensitive to local economic needs and changes – should be set at a continental level. New member states of the EU, or newly independent member states of the EU, ought not to be forced to adopt the Euro and where member states wish to leave, they ought to be supported to do so in an orderly fashion. Otherwise, the future of the Euro is a matter for members of the Eurozone.

Using procurement for good

The UK public sector spends over£150 billion⁷ a year buying goods and services. This spend – and its capacity to drive positive change in the economy – is regulated by the EU. Greens MEPs have won improvements in procurement regulations in recent years.

Green MEPs will work:

- To change the European public procurement directive to allow and encourage a broader range of socially desirable factors to be considered, including support for local producers.
- For decisions about public procurement to be made locally by the public body procuring, not the EU. The role of the EU should be facilitating procurement for good, not mandating what public bodies can buy.
- For the EU to support the use of procurement to drive global economic and environmental justice, including by funding bodies to monitor the supply chains of goods bought by public service organisations.

Measuring what matters

The EU has an role in measuring and benchmarking the successes of member state economies. Greens have long argued that GDP is a bad measure of economic success, failing to take into account resource depletion, distribution of wealth, and whether economic activities are socially or environmentally desirable.

Green MEPs will:

- Encourage the EU to put factors such as social, environmental and employment indicators at the heart of economic governance by revising measures including the Macroeconomic Imbalances Procedure⁸.
- Ask the EU to support member states in developing more appropriate alternative measures of economic progress than GDP.
- Challenge the notion that GDP growth equates to economic success.

7 https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/62060/introduction-public-procurement.pdf

8 http://www.greens-efa.eu/fileadmin/dam/Documents/Letters/Letter_on_the_Social_Dimension_of_the_EMU_11_06_13.pdf

The revised scoreboard for the MIP should amongst others contain the following:

Employment rate at full time equivalent including a sub-indicator on youth unemployment

Income inequality

In-work poverty

Resource productivity

Capital productivity and unit capital costs

Energy component of current account

A lower threshold for the indicator on Unit Labour Cost

An indicator taking into account the concept of adjusted net saving and the ecological footprint

Education expenditure

PRESERVING THE PLANET

Climate change, more than almost any other issue, demonstrates the need for cross continental and global co-operation. No one country can solve this great challenge alone.

And the challenge is greater than it has ever been. In 2013, the amount of carbon dioxide in the earth's atmosphere passed 400 parts per million for the first time in three million years. Weather events once considered extreme are now regular, destroying crops and towns and lives around the world. The crisis swept into homes across Britain this winter, as record rainfall brought with it floods and misery.

Without urgent action now, the impacts on human civilization will be unspeakable. Yet our leaders are moving far too slow and, too often, in the wrong direction. From Canadian tar sands to Arctic drilling to Osborne's fracking, rather than keep carbon out of the atmosphere, energy companies and governments are colluding to scrape every last drop out of the ground. We cannot allow this. The oil and gas in known conventional reserves are sufficient to deliver disaster. Yet our government and governments around the world are cheering on the corporations driving this destruction: giving them influence over energy policy and millions of pounds of subsidies.

The choice is stark, and there is no more time to wait. We can face disastrous changes to the climate system humanity has always depended on, or we can have a zero-carbon revolution. We must invest in renewables, energy efficiency, and public transport, and leave fossil fuels in the ground.

The Green Party has long led the way in protecting the climate. We have long argued that we need to build a low carbon, renewably powered society. We have always understood that solving the climate crisis is a question of economic policy, housing policy, energy policy, transport policy: it is about changing the system that puts profit before the planet. As long as a wealthy few can gain by plundering the earth's resources, they will continue to do so. Our world is interconnected, and so you will find our solutions to the climate crisis in every section of this manifesto. But the challenge also demands specific policies and frameworks. Across Europe and in the EU, Green Parties have had remarkable success in securing these.



Natalie Bennett, Leader of the Green Party, demonstrates against fracking at Balcombe.

Only a few years ago, renewable energy was treated by too many as a joke. Today, the renewables revolution they said was impossible is happening all across Europe – often because of direct policies of Green Parties. On the global stage, it is Greens who have pushed the EU to demand action.

Green MEPs will:

- Demand the EU to take leadership in mitigating climate change, with binding targets for EU emissions reductions of at least 90% on 1990 levels by 2030, accepting the principles of contraction and convergence, whereby those responsible for more emissions reduce faster.
- Work for renewed impetus in global negotiations.
- Ask the EU to use current bilateral talks such as those with the US to force environmental standards, including banning the sale in Europe of fuels which originate from the most polluting sources, such as Canadian Tar Sands.
- Oppose the extraction of shale gas through fracking. We already have more than enough fossil fuels in known conventional reserves to deliver dangerous climate change, and the risk to local environments from fracking is too high
- Oppose the extraction in Europe of other extreme fuels, such as the deep sea oil drilling off Shetland.
- Ask the EU to replace the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS). The scheme has failed, and Greens will argue for solutions including legally binding national targets, the banning of extraction of quantities of fuels with

which the atmosphere cannot cope and the building of the infrastructure needed for a zero-carbon economy. However, whilst pushing for more such solutions, Greens will engage fully in processes designing replacement schemes including working for a much higher and less volatile carbon price, a progressively reducing cap on carbon allowances, and the inclusion of more sectors.

- Work with member states to ensure climate reparations are paid to them, funded by wealth taxes on fossil fuel companies, to help cover the costs of adaptation to a changed climate and mitigation of their contribution to climate change.
- Support the global sharing of intellectual property for technologies which help reduce carbon emissions (see under 'research').

A low carbon energy revolution

We need an energy revolution across Europe. To provide affordable zero-carbon energy, we need to fund a renewables boom and a massive efficiency effort: small local production and large scale wind, wave, tidal and solar; loft insulation and low energy factories. This will require funding and infrastructure. It demands that our governments remain focussed, rather being distracted by dangerous red herrings like nuclear and shale gas. Most of all, it needs political leadership.

Greens have led the way on opposing dangerous fuels. Fracking threatens our countryside and our climate and our communities. Arctic drilling imperils one of the last remaining great wildernesses and risks another deepwater disaster. Nuclear means asking future generations to live with our mess.

There is an alternative. Greens have always been second to none in inspiring Europe to move towards a renewably powered, energy efficient future. We have achieved more than many ever believed was possible. But we have much more to do.

Green MEPs will:

Call time on filthy fuels

- Campaign for a ban on fracking in Europe.
- Oppose deep sea oil drilling.
- Oppose the development of nuclear power stations.
- Continue to call for the Euratom treaty to be revised so that it regulates the safety of what nuclear power there is, rather than promoting the expansion of nuclear power.

Invest in the energy of the future

- Set a target for 45% of energy in Europe to be produced renewably by 2030, and 100% by 2050.
- Set a target for a reduction in energy use of 40% by 2030 through an energy efficiency revolution.
- Invest in a green energy revolution to better support national and local renewable energy efforts, funded through Green Quantitative Easing.
- Support EU-wide infrastructure for renewable energy, such as a European super grid to share electricity capacity across scales and maximize the potential of renewable generation; solar farms in Southern Europe, and offshore wind on the Atlantic shelf.
- Oppose EU state aid rules which prevent direct government support for renewable energy.
- Continue to fight to ensure that the common market and trade deals such as the current EU/US trade deal do not prevent public ownership of our currently failing privatised energy system.
- Argue for more EU funding for research into renewable energy.
- Support the sharing of best practice in energy production. For example, Germany's 'Energiewende' provides a framework for success for moving from high carbon centralised energy to low carbon decentralised energy production. Germany has a reliable energy grid, wind and solar are growing rapidly and citizens are now in the process of taking over control of the grid from energy companies⁹. Other countries such as Portugal are rapidly

⁹ Chris Nelder, Myth-busting Germany's energy transition, <http://www.smartplanet.com/blog/take/myth-busting-germanys-energy-transition/1275>

DIRTY FUEL BANNED FROM EUROPE

Green MEPs have fought to ensure that the Fuel Quality Directive stops oil from dirty fuels like Canada's tar sands from being used in Europe.

TRADE UNIONS WORK WITH GREEN MEPS

Green MEPs have been tireless campaigners for more action on climate change, working with trade unions to demand more investment in renewable energy, and fighting to close loopholes in the EU the Emissions Trading Scheme.

KEITH'S ANTI-FRACKING CAMPAIGN

Keith has been at the forefront of the fight against fracking in the UK. As part of his campaign against shale gas extraction Keith has travelled to Poland and the United States to meet campaigners against fracking and to see the environmental consequences of the controversial drilling technique.

In the UK, Keith has joined protesters in Balcombe, Sussex, as they stand against the carving up of their countryside by fracking firms. Keith also hosted a highly successful film tour of South East England. The tour, which saw hundreds of people join Keith at screenings of the anti-fracking film 'Drill Baby Drill' brought together activists as the campaign against fracking gained momentum.

ENERGY EFFICIENT HOMES

Jean Lambert has actively promoted greater energy efficiency measures, especially for Londoners' whose draughty homes contribute to higher- than-necessary fuel bills, as well as climate change. She also acted as an 'ambassador' for Build with Care, a cross-border project dealing with energy efficient buildings, and has been involved with promoting community energy projects.

OPPOSING AIRPORT EXPANSION

Jean and Keith have actively opposed airport expansion in London and South East England, including Heathrow and Gatwick. They submitted a joint response to a major Government consultation on airport expansion. In their response the Green MEPs highlighted the impact of aviation on meeting our climate change targets and on local communities. Their response to a separate consultation on state aid for aviation called for an end to state subsidies to the aviation industry. Keith and Jean also responded to a government consultation on night flights landing or taking off from UK airports.

TRANSPORT INITIATIVES

As a member of the Transport Committee, Keith Taylor has constantly called for measures within the EU's ports and railways packages which strengthen efforts to bring these services into public ownership.

On the Transport and Tourism Committee Keith was supported by trade unions when he voted down proposals which could have led to pilots working longer shifts, potentially putting passengers in danger.

On a government consultation on night flights Keith demanded a ban on all night flights landing or taking off from UK airports.

Jean, Keith and fellow Green MEPs supported campaigns to make lorries safer across the EU, including reducing HGV blind spots and improve braking – to reduce road deaths and injuries to cyclists and pedestrians.

Keith Taylor has fought hard in the Parliament against the contribution of land-based biofuels to the EU's renewable energy targets, and Greens in the European Parliament have influenced legislation to decrease the risks associated with burning crops as a fuel for vehicles.

Keith Taylor succeeded in getting the backing of the European Parliament for the recommendation of 30kph (20mph) as the best practice speed limit in residential areas across the European Union, in order to promote safer conditions for pedestrians and cyclists, especially children and the elderly. In the UK nearly 13 million people now live in 20mph areas.)

decarbonising their energy sector: in early 2013 Portugal was getting 70% of their electricity from renewable sources. The shift to renewables also has the potential to spread and bring greater democracy to the ownership of energy production.

End fuel poverty in Europe

Too many people across Britain live in fear of a cold winter. Our leaky homes make us sick, turn our energy bills into a monthly terror and mean we use far more energy than we need to.

- Green MEPs will push for an EU wide social energy target: an agreed amount by which we will reduce fuel poverty by 2030. This would work alongside renewable energy targets by stimulating investment towards bill-reducing renewables such as on roof solar panels.
- Ask for European funds to be steered towards renewables and energy efficiency.
- Remove VAT from insulation and housing renovation (see under housing policy).

Low carbon manufacturing

There are numerous examples of manufacturing processes becoming more sustainable across Europe. One example is the Rothes Whisky distillers in Scotland. They are now using the by-products of whisky production to fuel a power plant. At a broader level, the development of eco-industrial parks provides a basis for the effective implementation of closed-loop manufacturing.

Green MEPs will:

- Work within the EU to support schemes to share best practice in delivering low carbon, sustainable manufacturing.
- Fund, through green quantitative easing, the infrastructure needed to deliver a low carbon, sustainable manufacturing sector.

Low carbon cities and towns

European cities are showing impressive ambition to become more sustainable. For example, Amsterdam has a target of cutting 40% of CO2 by 2025. Eco villages such as Vauban near Freiburg in Germany are an example of genuinely green living with ultra-efficient housing, walkable communities, combined heat and power systems and good public transport.

Green MEPs will:

- Encourage the EU to support the better sharing of best practice between cities in delivering a low carbon revolution.
- Push the EU to invest through green quantitative easing in the infrastructure cities need to transition to a low carbon economy.

Transport

We need a transport revolution across Europe. The EU should be promoting walking, cycling, and public transport use, not ever more traffic; working for goods to be transported by rail rather than lorries, and ensuring our roads are safe for all users.

Where the EU funds transport infrastructure, such as the TEN/T projects, these should support a radical improvement in public transport, streets and infrastructure to improve walking and cycling.

Green MEPs will work within the EU to:

- Prioritise accessibility (including for wheelchair users), walking and cycling in all transport infrastructure plans.
- Prioritise investment in the local transport infrastructure most people rely on rather than the trans-continental mega-schemes more used by wealthier people. De-prioritise airport and roads infrastructure spending.
- Introduce more rigorous vehicle regulations, such as those relating to fuel efficiency and tires and ensure advertisements and other information tell consumers clearly the impact of their vehicle.
- Continue to invest in ports and the infrastructure they require.
- Ensure that the rules of the common market and trade deals such as the current EU/US trade deal do not make it harder to bring public transport infrastructure, such as railways, back into public ownership, or to regulate them. In 2007, EU rules pushed the Scottish government to put its publicly owned ferry services out to tender. This should never have happened.
- Continue to work to fight the use of food for fuel, whilst 1 in 8 people continue to go hungry. Greens will continue to challenge this destructive policy at EU level, and call for the elimination of the biofuels directive.
- Oppose measures to allow mega-truck 'gigaliners' onto European roads, push for better safety standards on Heavy Goods Vehicles and for more freight to be transported by rail.



Greens protesting against rail fare hikes

- Work to improve heavy vehicle design particularly in respect of bike safety, such as requiring lower cabs with better all-round vision.

Better use of natural resources

Despite much progress, too much of the natural resource we extract or grow is sent too soon to landfill each year, and too many hazardous chemicals are allowed to leach into our water and air. We import more of these natural resources than any other region of the world.

Green MEPs will work with the EU to:

- Limit industrial processes which generate toxic or hazardous wastes; recycling or monitored storage shall be used where such wastes are generated.
- Set a target for hazardous waste production to be eliminated by 2020. Closed systems for processes which use hazardous chemicals should be introduced.
- Ban surface, sea and river dumping of waste from manufacturing or primary industry processes will be banned. Adequate waste recycling and disposal facilities should be provided on site where practicable.
- Work towards an end to our reliance on other countries for natural resources and instead support a reduction in consumption of natural resources and a zero waste strategy and circular waste management systems. We send millions of tonnes of valuable resource to landfill sites each year, and then pay to re-import them, often at the cost of land grabs and exploitative mining in the global south. Greens will work for a more sustainable system.
- Reverse plans to become a bio-economy – dependent on imported biomass – which would dramatically increase the EU's use of land and biomass without properly addressing overconsumption issues.
- Oppose the extraction of natural resources, such as unconventional fossil fuels and uranium, which are particularly dangerous. Green MEPs will work in solidarity with communities affected by the activities mining companies, such as First Nation Canadians fighting the extraction of tar sands in Canada. We will also support those workers involved in unsustainable extractive industries to ensure investment in a just transition to a local economy in which they have good, well paid and fitting jobs.

Food, farming and the natural world

Food prices are rising fast, yet farmers are being squeezed as hard as ever. Hunger is driving British people to food banks, and supermarkets have been caught selling horse meat as beef. Globally, in recent years, we have seen food riots and starvation whilst more of us than ever suffer from long term ill health because of our diets. Our food system is broken.

It is no longer the farmers, bakers and greengrocers who control our supply chains. The food we are sold is chosen by profiteers with more experience of cutting corners than cutting corn. It's a speculating banker, not your local baker, who sets the price of a loaf of bread. It's supermarket profits which dictate what a dairy farmer gets paid, not the cost of producing a pint of milk from a healthy cow.

Green MEPs have long fought for a food revolution. We stand with the food sovereignty movement globally. That work will continue.

Food and farming:

Farming is a key part of the UK economy, and should be recognised as such. Greens want to increase support for small scale farming and farming co-operatives, and reduce support for agribusiness and supermarkets.

In particular, Green MEPs will work for:

- The right to food and 'food sovereignty', meaning people in Europe and the Global South have the right to define and control their own local food systems, choose what they eat, and make sure their community's food is healthy and accessible to everyone.
- Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) spending to be redirected from large farms to small farms. Currently, the Common Agricultural Policy makes payments based on the size of the farm, which rewards those who are already wealthiest. Greens will push for a cap on the number of acres for which payment can be received, such that most farmers will get more support, whilst the biggest agribusinesses and the largest land owners don't get more than a Europe-wide maximum.
- An end to food poverty in Britain. We are one of the richest countries in human history. The fact that there are people who go hungry is a moral outrage. The fact that more people than ever are relying on food banks brings shame to our country and we will continue to work to ensure no one goes hungry.
- The use of CAP payments to encourage the production of food with high nutritional, environmental and animal welfare standards and a shift away from animal farming and towards more sustainable food crops.
- A Europe that's more self-sufficient in products that can

be produced in Europe, especially plant based protein and oil crops as alternatives for imports of soybeans and palm oil, which have particularly devastating impacts on small farmers and the environment in exporting countries.

- A ban on Genetically Modified food.
- More pollinator friendly agriculture.
- Reform the Common Agricultural policy to allow farmers to let their land re-wild, rather than forcing them to continue uneconomic farming practices where they do not wish to, in order only to receive subsidies.
- A change to procurement rules which allows and encourages public sector procurement from local producers – schools and hospitals should be buying from local suppliers first, direct from the producers where possible. EU public procurement laws should facilitate this, not discourage it. Procurement policies should also favour food produced to high nutritional, environmental and animal welfare standards.
- The break-up of monopolistic supermarkets. Currently, supermarkets have huge power over farmers and consumers, meaning that people at both ends are ripped off. EU competition laws should be strengthened and enforced.
- GM crops to be kept out of Europe. Seed biodiversity and farm plant biodiversity must remain protected from corporate interests.
- The protection of small farmers and seed producers from regulations on plant reproductive material (seeds, cuttings, bulbs, etc) which threaten to put them out of business and endanger biodiversity and resilience of crops.
- Better labelling of all products sold in Europe, including an 'animal free' label, so that people know what they are buying.
- Measures to reduce the use of pesticides.
- Encourage the reduction in consumption of meat, dairy and other animal products, with promotion and education around alternative diets.
- The investigation and implementation of policies to reduce food waste by at least 50%, ranging from regulation of supermarket to a clearer best before/use by food labelling system.

FIGHTING FOR A FAIRER CAP

During the Parliamentary negotiations over CAP, Greens demanded a strict limit on the amount of subsidy agri-businesses can claim, to ensure that CAP payments can be better distributed. Greens also pushed for the CAP's sustainability to be greatly improved. Despite their best efforts Greens were outvoted on the final CAP proposals and the EU has been left with a farming policy that isn't fit for purpose in the 21st century.

KEITH CHALLENGES THE POWER OF SUPERMARKETS

As co-chair of the Parliament's working group on supermarkets, Keith Taylor has worked to challenge supermarket power at EU level, and has called for stronger EU action to stop unfair trading practices between supermarkets and suppliers.

WINNING THE BATTLE AGAINST FARM ANIMAL CRUELTY

Green MEPs have worked hard to end cruel factory farming practices, such as the use of farrowing crates for pigs and zero-grazing, and EU legislation to include protection of cows, farmed fish and beef cattle, and winning an EU-wide ban on battery cages.

- Action to prevent land grabbing.
- Support for smallholders in the developing world.

Factory farming

Industrial animal farming – ‘factory farming’ – is a highly inefficient way to produce food which damages the environment, creates pollution, overuses water, reduces food security and treats animals as machines, not sentient beings. Greens are completely opposed to factory farming and will:

- Push for policies that support extensive, pasture based systems over the excessive use of cereal as feed.
- Encourage integration of crop and livestock production
- Allow waste food to be fed to pigs and poultry (subject to proper controls).
- End the routine preventative use of antibiotics that is threatening the effectiveness of these vital drugs.
- Introduce high standards of animal welfare (see animals section of the manifesto)

Protecting our seas and oceans

In 1932, the world record for the biggest tuna ever caught was broken in Britain¹⁰ – a 798lb. Bluefin tuna were then common around the British coast. In Great Yarmouth alone, fishing for vast shoals of herring provided 10,000 seasonal jobs each year between the mid-19th and mid-20th centuries¹¹. Not long ago, the oceans around Britain teemed with life in a way that today we can only imagine.

But then something happened: the fish populations collapsed. The jobs disappeared.

But they don't have to be gone forever. By bringing fishing in European waters back to the sustainable levels recommended by scientists, the EU could generate over £3bn in additional catches, and so create an extra 100,000 jobs¹².

By establishing networks of highly protected marine reserves (including large no-take areas) covering each type of ocean ecosystem we could help bring life back to our waters; support species' adaption to changes in our climate; boost fisheries yields; and support tourism and recreation¹³.

Green MEPs will work to restore our oceans to their former glory. The future of our fishing communities, and the future of numerous marine species, depend upon it.

In particular, Green MEPs will work within the EU to:

- Ensure the reformed Common Fisheries Policy ends overfishing in the EU by 2018 at the latest.
- Set a global example for best practise in ocean restoration and continue to support scientifically-based management of EU fish stocks at international fora, such as the critically

endangered bluefin tuna.

- Work with local fishing communities to ensure full operational compliance with the ban on discards at sea.
- Create an ecologically representative and coherent network of highly protected marine reserves (IUCN Category I) across European waters, covering at least 30% of the seas under European jurisdiction
- Ask for more intensive controls to prevent pollution and parasites spreading from fish farms.
- Ensure that sustainability remains at the heart of the Blue Growth strategy.
- Ban deep sea trawling.
- Make a clean break from harmful subsidies.

Greens were at the centre of creating a new Common Fisheries Policy that will help address the dangerous state of our seas. Keith and Jean worked with fellow Greens in rallying a majority of MEPs behind a demand for sustainable fish stocks. Green amendments on avoiding bycatch and reducing discards of bycatch were also carried by a majority in Parliament. Thanks to Greens, future fishing rights will be allocated according to best performance indicators, no longer based on historical fishing quotas.

Flood prevention: from the watershed to the river mouth

Our climate is changing. At the same time as working to urgently reduce our emissions, we also need to mitigate the impacts of the chaos this is already causing. In the UK, the most extreme of these has been drastic increases in winter rainfall.

But heavy rainfall doesn't have to mean such disastrous floods. Too often, the way we've managed our land has made matters worse. Our de-forested hillsides with compact soils mean that the rain water isn't absorbed, but runs immediately into rivers and floods land and homes downstream. Soil under trees has been shown to absorb water 67 times faster than soil under grass¹⁴, while wetlands act like sponges, absorbing water. Our government has been too quick to listen to big landowners and cut rules which would reduce flooding for the rest of us.

Restoring wetlands and woodlands upstream would mean the rainwater falling on them would take more time to reach the river. Damming ditches and braiding streams on hillsides would hold water back, distributing it across whole water-basins rather than dumping it all at once onto heavily populated land or more fertile farming soils downstream. Support for changes in farming practice and urban design would make a huge difference.

10 <http://www.worldseafishing.com/features/history-british-tuna-fishery/>

11 <http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/0/24709759>

12 http://s.bsd.net/nefoundation/default/page/file/e966d4ce355b7485c1_a7m6brn5t.pdf

13 http://www.esf.org/fileadmin/Public_documents/Publications/EMB_PP18_Marine_Protected_Areas.pdf

14 <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/hyp.9826/abstract>

Much of the work in preventing floods must be done by national and local government. They must take responsibility. This means restoring the agricultural anti-flooding regulations they scrapped¹⁵. It means reversing the proposed cuts to the Environment Agency, and it means investing in the infrastructure – such as proper flood defences – that communities need. Floods show why short term cuts to public spending can cost more in the long run.

But the EU has a vital role too. In particular, through the Common Agriculture Policy, it must do much more to support farmers and land-owners to take action to reduce flooding downstream, and through infrastructure funding, it should support urban cities and towns in developing best practice in urban planning to reduce flooding.

Greens will work for:

- Better urban planning and land management to reduce flooding. Between 2007-2013, the EU invested EUR 21.1 billion in sustainable urban development¹⁶. This money should be encouraging and sharing practices which reduce flooding for example through sustainable urban drainage systems.
- Better encouragement of and subsidies for land use changes which reduce flooding downstream, such as restoration of wetlands and hillside reforestation (see under ‘allowing our eco-systems to flourish’).
- Support and, where needed, requirements for farmers to move towards flood mitigating practices, such as spring sowing, contour ploughing and the use of ground cover crops where appropriate; and away from practices which make flooding worse, such as maize growing, particularly on uplands.
- EU support for sharing best practice across Europe in flood mitigation.
- Ensure proper enforcement of the 2007 EU floods directive, which, among other things, requires proper public access to all information relating to flooding and full assessment of flood risks.

Allowing our eco-systems to flourish

Bee colonies are in collapse¹⁷. Between 2005 and 2010¹⁸, the number of eels in the river Thames fell by 98%. From 2003 to 2013 there was a 13% drop in the number of farmland birds in Britain¹⁹. Between 2003 and 2012, the British hedgehog population fell by a third²⁰. The wildcat is on the verge of extinction from the UK. We have for more than a century been wiping out the wildlife in our country at an astonishing rate. Across Europe, the situation is equally

worrying. The most endangered cat on earth is the Iberian Lynx²¹. EU requirements that to receive subsidies farmers must keep land deforested is contributing to habitat destruction across our continent.

Globally, WWF estimate that at least 10,000 species go extinct every year²². This is a crisis.

Green MEPs have long fought for policies to protect and expand habitats across Europe. They will continue to do so. As a minimum, we must halt the decline in European biodiversity by 2020. But this isn't enough. We should aim to re-wild much of our continent: to restore our temporal rainforests and re-forest our hillsides and allow our rivers and lakes to flourish once more.

In particular, Green MEPs will work with the EU to:

- Strengthen protection of habitats through the Habitats Directive.
- Better support and enforce the protection of the Natura 2000 conservation areas.
- Reform CAP to better allow ecosystems to flourish (see under ‘farming’, above).
- Review relevant legislation and codes of practices relating to the introduction of formerly native and non-native species, such as the Habitats Directive, to better encourage member states to reintroduce formerly native species, whilst protecting from the spread of invasive non-native species.
- Work with appropriate partners to strengthen international wildlife law and to ensure that it is implemented.
- Work for stronger international protection of endangered sea creatures, and an end to any killing of cetaceans in European waters. The EU should in particular be using its economic links with Norway, Iceland and the Faroe Islands to demand an end to their hunting of both large and small cetaceans.
- Protect wild plants by introducing a European Wild Plants directive which would require clear labelling on all living wild plant material traded within Europe, license all traders dealing with wild-collected plant material and tighten up import and export controls on wild plants.
- Adopt an action plan by 2015 to reduce the overall impact of EU consumption on forests, and work towards the reforestation of former upland. In the UK, this would help significantly in reducing the risk of homes being flooded.

15 <http://www.monbiot.com/2014/02/17/muddying-the-waters/>

16 http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/activity/urban/index_en.cfm#1

17 <http://www.channel4.com/news/honey-bee-colony-losses-double>

18 <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/london/8473965.stm>

19 <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2013/oct/17/wild-birds-uk-decline>

20 <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2013/jan/29/hedgehog-population-dramatic-decline>

21 http://wwf.panda.org/about_our_earth/species/profiles/mammals/iberian_lynx/

22 http://wwf.panda.org/about_our_earth/biodiversity/biodiversity/

STOPPING THE EU FUNDING BULLFIGHTING

Keith and Jean have been working to prevent EU funding being indirectly used to support bullfighting. Both MEPs have been focussing on the issue after it was revealed that payments of up to £110 million are given by the EU to farmers who rear bulls for fighting in Spain. A report published by Spanish Greens in summer 2013 concluded, 'without such backing [bullfighting] would probably be on the brink of financial collapse'.

In response to the report Jean and Keith started a petition demanding the EU stops funding bull fighting. The petition has some 25,000 signatures.

COSMETICS BAN

Thanks, in part, to Greens in the European Parliament a ban on cosmetics developed through animal testing has taken effect in the EU.



WILDLIFE TRADE DECIMATING SPECIES

Illegal wildlife trade is decimating species across the globe, the EU must strengthen and enforce the multilateral agreements on wildlife trade and use its influence to ensure other countries are enforcing their own rules.

WINNING SUPPORT FOR BEES

In the European Parliament, and in the face of fierce opposition from the pesticide industry and the UK Government, both Jean and Keith helped push through a suspension of the use of toxic bee-killing pesticides called neonicotinoids.

Animal protection

Greens have the strong policies on animal protection and have a proven track record of action in Europe.

Greens strongly support the introduction of an animal welfare framework law, covering all types of animals - including pets and wild animals - which will demonstrate that the EU is serious about animal protection.

There must also be proper Europe wide implementation of the rules that are already in place. This is currently a particular issue with regard to the Pig Directive.

We also demand that animal welfare be considered as a consideration in all Free Trade Agreements.

Farm animals:

Millions of animals across Europe live short, brutal lives in barren factory farms.

The EU must move away from intensification and industrialisation of animal farming.

In particular Greens MEPs will push for:

- The adoption of higher legal standards for all farmed animals. In particular, standards must be established to protect the welfare of beef cattle, ducks, geese, rabbits and farmed fish. Standards for dairy cows and goats must include mandatory and substantive access to grazing. Pig farrowing crates to be banned.
- A ban on cages for egg laying hens.
- Improved food labelling and better traceability of our food to prevent further food scandals such as the horse meat scandal. Mandatory labelling of meat and dairy products as to method of production and the method of slaughter.
- Mandatory CCTV in all slaughterhouses.
- Tougher regulations on animal transportation, including a maximum limit of 8 hours and an end to live export from the UK.

- A ban on the cloning of farm animals and the sale of clones and their offspring as well as a ban on the sale of meat and milk from these animals.
- Countries must be able to choose, if they wish, to introduce stricter domestic measures prohibiting the import of products that do not meet their own welfare standards, for example, foie gras.

Animal testing:

Greens want to see an end to all animal experimentation and will call for an EU strategy that ensures research funding is directed away from failing animal disease models and towards modern human biology-based techniques which offering greater opportunities to cure disease and improve product safety.

Greens believe that immediate action must be taken to:

- Stop non-medical experiments.
- Stop the use of primates, cats and dogs in research.
- Stop using genetically altered animals.
- Stop the importing of non-human primates for use in labs, as a step towards ending primate research.
- Stop the use of outdated secrecy laws to withhold information on animal experiments and ensure implementation of data sharing.
- Ensure that EU funding does not support companies that outsource their animal experimentation trials to countries beyond the EU.
- Provide greater funding for non-animal research methods

Wild Animals:

Greens will argue for:

- The inclusion of wild animals in captivity within the scope of the EU Animal Welfare Framework Law, establishing mandatory welfare standards for all individual animals, regardless of their use or circumstance.

- Greater support to build capacity in EU Member States concerning effective enforcement of animal protection/welfare law.
- A commitment from EU Member States to implement and effectively enforce the requirements of the EC Zoos Directive 1999/22, including a robust licensing and inspection procedure and the humane closures of non-compliant zoos.
- An end to the use of wild animals in circuses and travelling menageries and exhibitions.
- An end to the keeping of captive whales and dolphins for commercial purposes.
- The greater protection of wild animals used in TV advertising, film and stage, encouraging strict regulation by Member States to restrict use unless the animal's physical and behavioural needs can be met.
- A ban on the import of wild caught animals.
- Tighter restrictions on the species that can be imported and traded.
- A fully funded EU action plan to tackle wildlife trafficking and improve enforcement.
- A mandatory recording of all animal imports, noting species, numbers of individuals, origin and destination. This data should be readily available for monitoring purposes.
- An end to the keeping of wild animals as companion animals, or household pets.
- A review of trophy hunting and the import of wildlife trophies into the EU with a view to introducing stricter measures to end unsustainable practices and the hunting of wild animals held in captive conditions (canned hunting).
- Greater support to build capacity in developing countries concerning effective wildlife law enforcement.
- Increased support for multinational actions aimed at gathering data on the illegal wildlife trade (e.g. Interpol Wildlife Crime Unit) in order to disrupt the activities of criminal syndicates.
- Enhanced public education and awareness initiatives in support of demand reduction strategies.
- All European tour operators, travel affiliations and national tourist boards to adopt the Global Welfare Guidance for Animals in Tourism and to actively ensure their holiday excursions, and related activities, have a minimal impact on the welfare of animals, both wild or captive.

In the UK Defra has chosen to pursue a cull of badgers in an attempt to tackle the problem of TB in badgers- against all independent scientific opinion.

Greens are strongly opposed to this cull and at a European level will push for the introduction of a new law, based on

the Animal Health Law, allowing for quicker approval of any vaccine to protect cattle against bovine TB.

Companion Animals:

Increasingly companion animals are being traded across country borders, yet companion animal welfare is regulated at national level.

Greens will work for:

- European law regulating the breeding and sale of cats and dogs, with mandatory licensing of breeders and control on genetic manipulation through breeding to prevent exaggerated characteristics likely to cause suffering.
- Compulsory identification by micro-chipping (where possible) and registration on an appropriate harmonised database.
- Coordinated action on stray animals and legislation to ensure countries across Europe deal with stray animals in a humane way, using programmes based on neutering and not culling.

Animals in Sport:

Greens do not believe that animals should be used in any sport or form of entertainment that causes pain and suffering (including psychological distress).

Greens MEPS will work towards:

- Removing EU subsidies from bullfighting.
- An end to animals being used in circuses
- Action over other sports or entertainment that causes suffering to animals.



DEFENDING PUBLIC SERVICES

Health and social care

The privatisation of the NHS will possibly be the worst legacy of this government. Cuts to local councils have hit social care hard, with many counties and cities now struggling to provide the care that disabled people and vulnerable elderly people need. Home visits have in many regions been cut to a few minutes a day. Day care centres have often introduced charges, meaning the less well-off are priced out. Whilst these policies are a consequence of decisions at Westminster and in local government, there are ways in which Europe is relevant.

Green MEPs will:

- Fight to restore the NHS to public ownership. We will continue to work to ensure there are no measures in the EU/US trade deal and other future trade deals which encourage privatisation or prevent the future re-nationalisation of health care and other services in the UK. The deal as currently proposed risks setting all privatisation in legal stone²³ by banning the nationalisation of assets currently within the scope of the market, and so making it significantly harder for future governments to bring services back into public hands.
- Protect public services within the EU single market.
- Stand up to the tobacco lobby and continue to support moves to discourage smoking.
- Support the right of all to healthcare, irrespective of where they are from (see under 'migration').
- Support the rights of elderly people to the care they need, including pushing the UK government to introduce free personal care for elderly people.
- Work towards better labelling of food and other products which may impact on health.
- Support the right to health and safety at work (see under workers' rights) including health and safety issues specifically relevant to health workers.
- Work for better enforcement of directives on air quality. Air pollution in many UK cities, especially London, is at dangerous levels and a cause of serious health problems including premature death. Green MEPs will continue to fight to ensure no one is made sick by the air they breathe, that there are clear ceilings in place for air pollution levels by 2020 and 2025, and that there is action against air pollution from major sources such as power plants, agriculture, shipping, construction and domestic heating.
- Continue to work to ensure no one is sold any product containing hazardous plastics and chemicals they don't



LABELLING MATTERS

Greens succeeded in introducing basic demands on country of origin labelling, which will become mandatory for meat. The European Commission will also examine whether such a practice is viable for other foodstuffs as well. A majority in Parliament also supported the Green position on the inclusion of nano-foods in the list of ingredients and on the provision of precise information on the kind of vegetable oil used which can otherwise obscure the use of palm oil.

FIGHTING AIR POLLUTION

Both UK Green MEPs have worked continuously alongside organisations in the UK to call upon the Commission to investigate breaches of EU air pollution limits. These have included the Government's plans to scrap schemes which were proven to reduce UK air pollution.

Keith published a report, called 'The Invisible Killer', bringing attention to the high levels of air pollution in a number of places in his constituency. Jean produced a pamphlet, called 'Air Pollution: London's Unseen Killer' calling for urgent action from Government and the Mayor to tackle toxic air in the capital which currently causes 4000 premature deaths a year.

²³ <http://www.opendemocracy.net/ournhs/gus-fagan/eu-us-free-trade-and-risks-to-nhs>

know about, and to limit the use of hazardous chemicals, such as endocrine disruptors, in ways which risk their entry into the environment.

- Continue to fully support moves to end discrimination on grounds of age in healthcare.
- Continue to support co-operation across Europe on health and healthcare research (see under 'research').

Supporting carers

Society is held together by the millions of people every day who care for their loved ones. Too often, they are badly treated, and don't get the support they deserve. Greens will always be a voice for carers in Europe, and will work for:

- A carers' leave directive (see under 'workers' rights' above).
- The inclusion of carers issues in social policy development, including encouraging the EU to actively target carers in initiatives like the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing, the Employment Package and the Social Investment Package, the European Social Fund, the Health programme, gender equality initiatives and the social Open Method of Co-ordination.
- A specific EU action programme to ensure and coordinate an effective exchange of information, experience and good practice between relevant stakeholders.
- EU funding to contribute to capacity building for carers in relation to provision of support and advocacy as well as support exchange of information, research and networking.
- Data collection and monitoring to promote and support sound policy development (such as Horizon2020).
- Legislative measures to explore the possibility of binding measures while respecting national competence and the principle of solidarity - e.g. a Directive on carers leave.
- Work to recognise the importance of unpaid labour, such as care and housework, which is much more often done by women, through an unconditional basic income (see 'fiscal policy', above).

Decent pensions for all – now and in the future

At a UK level, the Green Party supports an increase in the basic state pension and the phasing in of a citizens' pension, payable to all. We are one of the richest countries in human history. No pensioner should live in poverty.

Whilst most matters relating to pensions are for Westminster, there are some issues relating to the EU. Green MEPs will push for:

- Continued support for the increasing number of people who have accrued pension benefits in more than one EU country to access their pensions.

- The EU to stop encouraging blanket increases in the retirement age²⁴. If people want to work, they shouldn't be forced to stop, but no one should be made to continue to work after pensionable age.
- Measures to stop pension funds investing in the industries of the past, such as fossil fuels, the arms trade and other unsustainable industries which will by necessity be phased out in coming years.
- A limiting in the volatility of pension fund capital flows (see under 'banking').
- Tougher regulation of pension funds to minimise risk to pensioners (see under 'banking').

Expanding the bounds of human knowledge

In 2013, a Scottish trade union organiser and a holocaust survivor from Belgium were together awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics after a remarkable discovery at a Swiss research institute. By collaborating across Europe, Peter Higgs, François Englert and CERN had theorised and then proved the existence of a particle without which our understanding of the world around us would not make sense: the Higgs Boson. They also demonstrated something else. Academia has no borders. Discovery is a social endeavour.

The EU has a key role in supporting research: in funding infrastructure and in facilitating academic collaborations. Advancing our understanding of the world will be key to meeting great challenges like climate change and anti-biotic resistance. But the Green Party also believes in the intrinsic value of advancing and sharing the sum of human understanding. We support research and its dissemination not just because of its potential to help us, but also because, as with art, we believe that the advancement and dissemination of knowledge is one of the things that makes us human, which gives us meaning in the world and which defines us as a civilisation.

Green MEPs will fight to protect the freedom and the funding of scientific, social, and arts research, free from the interference of the state and of the profit motive; funding sufficient to ensure that the Higgs Boson is followed by ever more astounding discoveries.

Green MEPs will ask the EU to:

- Increase funding for European Research Infrastructure and push for infrastructure which aims only to advance our understanding of the world around us, not to, for example, assist in the development of military technology.
- Support collaborations with other countries around the world in delivering vital research infrastructure.
- Better fund research for its own sake. 3% of UK GDP ought to be dedicated to public spending on academic research through the Haldane Principle, which requires that

24 <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=1194&furtherNews=yes>

governments leave it to academics to decide which areas of research ought to receive funding (within the bounds of ethics committees). Governments ought to fund specific research into their priority areas, such as medicine or renewable energy out of additional funds.

Within this framework, cross continental and international collaboration are key, and Green MEPs will push for an increase in research funding from the EU, including more funding in line with the Haldane Principle, and, separately, more funding for projects in line with the Lund Declaration²⁵, which called for European research into the great challenges facing humanity, such as climate change and water loss.

- Ensure that where the EU is funding research with immediately applicable outputs, these as well as research processes are considered by ethics committees so that academic communities can choose to stop research into areas such as the arms trade or fossil fuel extraction.
- Challenge the creeping privatisation of research, whereby large corporations are permitted to shape the sum of human knowledge as academic departments become more dependent on them. Academic departments should be properly funded by the state, not dependent on the commercial interests of private companies.
- Promote greater gender and racial equality in those areas of academic endeavour which are still dominated by white people and by men.
- Listen more to scientific advisers and less to corporate lobbyists in policy processes.

Intellectual Property

With the growth of the information economy, intellectual property is becoming ever more important. With the rise of corporate power, more and more of human knowledge is owned by someone, or, more accurately, by some big business. This means it can only be used by that company, only when and how it sees fit. In fields from medicine to renewable energy to software, this monopolistic system has caused huge problems, restricting access to vital HIV treatments and preventing the transfer of low carbon technologies to those who need them most.

Greens have long called for a different approach. As far as possible, knowledge should be a common treasury, available for all to use to advance humanity. We support a vast increase in the public funding of science and in return, we expect the discoveries of science to be easily available to the public.

Green MEPs will:

- Ask the EU to require that all EU funded research and all research done by EU bodies is published in open access journals and to encourage member states to introduce a similar policy.
- Push the EU to require that technology resulting from any

EU funded research is not then allowed to be patented by private companies, and to encourage member states to adopt a similar policy.

- Support the development of patent pools with free access for all, and other mechanisms to help countries to share freely the products of our research.
- Set a permanent moratorium on further extensions of copyright, related rights and patent terms.
- Argue for a new global framework for intellectual property rights, replacing TRIPS, which allows governments to prioritise health over intellectual property protection.
- Push for regulations that for all medicines purchased in the EU, pharmaceutical companies are required to publish all trials that have been done.
- Push for regulations that no medical service in the EU may claim any benefit for a treatment for which there isn't scientific evidence as shown by replicable randomised controlled trials.
- Advocate for freedom of communication and the right to participate in cultural life in the context of reform of copyright laws and access to knowledge.
- Support initiatives to harmonise and mandate existing optional exceptions to copyright, in order to facilitate the (re)use of works for individuals.

Space

Green MEPs will:

- Defend funding for the European Space Agency which, although separate from the EU, is an important example of European co-operation. The exploration of space expands the boundaries of human knowledge and advances our civilisation.
- Support expansion of the Outer Space Treaty such that corporations as well as companies are required to consider celestial bodies as common heritage for all.
- Oppose the weaponisation of space.

Higher and Further Education: The Bologna process, Erasmus and learning across Europe

In most of Northern Europe, Higher Education is fully or near-fully funded by the state. There are no tuition fees²⁶ in the Scandinavian countries or for Scottish residents in Scotland. In France, an undergraduate degree costs €183. In the Netherlands, it's €1,700. In the UK, for comparison it's around €32,300 for a three year degree.

As a result, it's likely that more and more British students will take advantage of EU rules allowing them to study in other EU countries on the same terms as the students from

25 <http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/index.cfm?fuseaction=public.topic&id=1225&lang=1>

26 <http://www.esu-online.org/news/article/6001/212/>

those countries – ie, often, for free.

The Bologna process brought together higher education systems across Europe, to ensure qualifications have equal value across Europe. So this process will become increasingly vital to the England and Wales as we rely on other EU member states to educate our citizens and workforce until such a time as we scrap our dangerous tuition fees.

Green MEPs will:

- Work towards better implementation of the Bologna Process commitments to widening participation of people from backgrounds not traditionally likely to go to university – including in the UK by accepting the European norm and abolishing tuition fees.
- Oppose the European Commission's attempts to promote tuition fees.
- Support the Bologna process and continued work to ensure European qualifications are recognised equally across Europe.
- Resist attempts to use the Bologna Process and the directive on services in the internal market of the European Union to turn universities into factories for employees rather than the powerhouses of democratic intellect. Learning is for life, not just a job.
- Support programmes such as Erasmus which encourage students to study abroad during their degrees. Such cultural exchanges are key to helping broaden horizons. Erasmus has run out of funding during the financial year on more than one occasion in recent years, and had to be re-funded mid-year. We will push for increased funding from the outset. In the UK, stronger support is needed for Erasmus, and Green MEPs will support national efforts in the UK to encourage participation in Erasmus programmes

Schools

Whilst under 18 education is the responsibility of local and national government, the EU has an important role in supporting schools to learn from each other, and supporting pupils who wish to take part in exchanges to do so.

Greens will:

- Support schemes such as Erasmus+ and eTwinning which build direct links between pupils and schools across Europe.
- Protect the right of EU citizens to an education in any other EU country on the same terms as citizens of that country.

Housing

The UK is in the middle of a housing crisis. Homelessness is

rising fast, the cost of housing – both renting and buying – is soaring, and our houses are the worst insulated in Europe. Far too many British people live in fear of a rent rise or a cold winter. Coalition policies are only making the situation worse.

The Green approach to housing is radically different from that of the establishment parties. We support the building of new council houses and the buying up of homes to make them council houses. We would end the automatic right to buy social housing, and support a shift to a right to rent and funding for models such as housing co-ops.

Whilst most key powers relating to housing are held by EU member states and many are held in the UK by local councils, there are ways in which the EU can help end the UK housing crisis.

Green MEPs would work towards:

- Banking regulations, taxes and reforms which encourage investment in the real economy, which includes house building, rather than speculation on the price of already built houses (see under 'banking', above).
- Encouraging member states to adopt zero rating of VAT for the renovation and insulation of housing, to match the zero rating currently in place for new builds. We will push for VAT to be scrapped all together, but this is an important interim measure.
- The codification of a set of rights for tenants' unions to sit alongside legal rights for trades unions.
- More support for municipalities and local authorities across Europe to share best practice in housing policy (and other policy areas). UK local government in particular has much to learn from the rest of Europe.
- Investment through green quantitative easing in a generation of new, zero carbon, affordable housing across Europe.



FIGHTING DISCRIMINATION, OPPOSING OPPRESSION

The EU has a key role in ensuring that all people are treated as equals throughout our lives and across our continent. Greens have always been at the forefront in the EU into being every more ambitious in its drive to abolish discrimination from our communities.

Similarly, the EU represents a substantial diplomatic block in the world. Good relations with the EU are often key to many countries economic success. The EU has a right and indeed a responsibility to use that power to fight for human rights across the world. Green MEPs have always stood for equality everywhere, and will continue to do so.

Sometimes, protecting minorities is about understanding specific discriminations against particular groups and particular legal and policy approaches are needed. Sometimes, general anti-discrimination principles need to be established across society and in law.

Green MEPs will:

- Encourage the EU to work with and hear the voices of discriminated-against groups and their chosen representatives.
- Support moves to extend equalities protection beyond the workplace to everyday life.

Our policies for various particular groups are listed below.

Migration

Across Europe, as austerity has reduced living standards for ordinary people, politicians keen to shirk the blame for their own failures have reached for a scapegoat. All too often, they have settled on migrants. But the Green Party has always been clear. It wasn't migrants who caused the

economic collapse. It's not migrants who are cutting jobs and failing to pay decent wages. It's not migrants who sold off our social housing and failed to replace it.

Britain gains a huge amount from the people who move here. Newcomers contribute to our economy and enrich our culture. Without them, our public services and our economy would be considerably less effective and successful.

Moreover, huge numbers of British people have taken advantage of the rules allowing the free movement of people within Europe. Up to a million British people are estimated to live in Spain alone²⁷. We believe in treating arrivals here in the way in which we would expect to be treated if we moved abroad-

Green MEPs will:

- Speak out against the propaganda used by too many politicians; propaganda which turns people against our migrant neighbours.

For EU migrants

- Support the free movement of people across the EU.
- Continue to work to protect the rights of particularly marginalised groups, including Roma people and other traveller communities.
- Support programmes such as Erasmus which encourage temporary migration by young people in order to raise cultural awareness and broaden horizons.
- Oppose any moves to water down EU rules requiring that all EU citizens have the same access to public services as citizens of any other EU state they are in.
- Oppose measures relating to the Schengen agreement requiring spot checks for EU citizenship and the de-facto requirement to carry ID cards across Europe. These allow for discrimination in particular against black and minority ethnic people. Though Greens support the free movement of people across Europe, we do not support the UK joining

²⁷ http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2013/11/27/eu-migrant-uk_n_4350519.html

the Schengen treaty so long as these measures are included in it.

For Non-EU migrants

- Defend the right of citizens to a family life. New UK government rules require that in order to have a spouse from a non-EU country move to the UK to live with you, you have to be wealthy. This is an attack on love and on family life and we will continue to fight it.
- Continue to oppose moves to introduce a 'barrier round Europe' to stop the arrival of non-Europeans.
- Support moves to protect those who have been trafficked into Europe, rather than victimising them further.
- Oppose the detention of migrants.
- As an interim measure: revise the remit of the Frontex EU border agency to respect the human rights of everyone it encounters, and to include a search and rescue at sea function. Thousands of people die on Europe's borders every year. We must end this tragedy.
- Have a pact with countries around the Mediterranean to prevent further deaths at sea of those who wish to seek a future in Europe.

For Refugees

- Have better co-ordination of the resettlement of refugees and forced migrants. Greens have been successful in calling for a joint resettlement programme, but the EU must do better in co-ordinating support when there are crises such as that resulting from the Syrian civil war.
- Have a fundamental reform of the Dublin III regulations so that asylum seekers arriving in Europe can choose in which country they wish to apply for asylum.
- Support legal routes to Europe for those seeking refugee status, such as temporary visas.
- Have international protection for those forced to move for environmental reasons.
- Ensure effective protection for LGBTIQ asylum-seekers. Member States must correctly and fairly examine LGBTIQ peoples' asylum claims and support EU agencies and

national authorities in fully implementing EU asylum legislation. The Court of Justice of the European Union ruled that people fleeing their country because of their sexual orientation can qualify for asylum in the European Union. Despite this, treatment of LGBTIQ asylum seekers remains problematic across the EU. In the UK the Home Office has been found to treat LGBTIQ asylum seekers inhumanely. High rates of refusal for legitimate claims, homophobic questioning and inhumane processes are rife across the EU. Greens have been powerful advocates of a humane asylum system that recognises the rights of refugees and will continue to be.

- Implement measures to ensure that Edward Snowden and future whistleblowers like him are able to apply for protection in EU member states for revealing abuse of the human rights of EU citizens.



Jean visits a camp to talk with asylum seekers.

LGBTIQ rights

The Greens have always been firmly committed to equal rights. We were the first party in England to support marriage equality, and MP Caroline Lucas has done much in Westminster to fight for equal pension rights for same sex couples. Both English Green MEPs are members of the

JEAN WORKS FOR MIGRANT'S RIGHTS

Jean led the negotiations for setting up the new European Asylum Support Office and was involved in working to improve the controversial Dublin 3 Regulation.

The Qualification Directive, on which Jean led the negotiations for the European Parliament, has seen gender identity specifically included in asylum legislation for the first time.

She promoted new EU legislation on migrants' access to healthcare, the rights of seasonal workers and new rules on social security rights for third-country nationals working in the EU in the Single Permit Directive.

JEAN AND KEITH WORK ON ANTI-DISCRIMINATION

Jean worked on the Civil Liberties Committee to develop a new funding stream, the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme, to pay for work on anti-discrimination issues.

Jean Lambert sits on the Intergroups on Ageing and Intergenerational Solidarity, Anti-racism and Diversity, Disability, Youth Issues and LGBT Rights. Keith Taylor is an active member of the LGBT Rights intergroup.

Keith and Jean have attended several Gay Pride events – at home and abroad. Specifically, they have worked to stamp out legal impediments to such events, successfully helping reverse a ban on a Pride rally in Lithuania.



Keith with Caroline Lucas MP on a Gay Pride float in Brighton.

Intergroup on Gay and Lesbian rights and have fought for equality across Europe. They have been powerful advocates for the European Court enshrining the legality of LGBTIQ anti-discrimination laws and tackling homophobia around the world.

Their work has shown that European Union has a strong role in advancing LGBTIQ rights. Greens are proud of our track record of fighting for LGBTIQ rights across Europe. The Green Group of MEPs, more so than any other group, have been uniformly committed to equality, and will continue to be so.

We also support making LGBTIQ rights a core European competency, and would argue for a vote to enshrine these rights via legislation in parliament via a qualified voting majority. Granting LGBTIQ individuals their human rights should be a condition of being in the European Union.

The Party pledges itself to advancing LGBTIQ rights throughout Europe by encouraging the EU to:

- Adopt an EU Roadmap on LGBTIQ equality
- Enforce human rights within the EU
- Complete the EU anti-discrimination law

- Combat homophobic and transphobic violence
- Promote an inclusive definition of family in EU policies
- Take a lead in protecting trans rights
- Take action against school bullying
- Tackle discrimination and inequalities in health

In short Greens will make the EU the world champion of equality for LGBTIQ people

Rights for black and minority ethnic people

Racism still has a worryingly presence in Britain and Europe. We see it most explicitly in the words and actions of fascist parties like the BNP, Golden Dawn and the Front National.

Green MEPs have a proud record of standing with Black and Minority Ethnic communities and will continue to fight all kinds of discrimination.

In particular, Green MEPs will:

- Challenge anti-immigrant rhetoric, which perpetuates racist attitudes (see 'migration' above).
- Actively support particularly marginalised groups. In 2013, Green MEP Jean Lambert was slammed by the Daily Mail for speaking up for the rights of Roma women²⁸. Continue to oppose the EU funding fascist parties.
- Work to ensure new accession to the EU is only allowed once basic protections against race and ethnic discrimination are agreed.
- Recognise and challenge institutional racism in police forces, including ensuring proper monitoring of Europol, the EU's police force.
- Support stronger measures to combat discrimination in employment practices and in the workplace.
- Continue to challenge the rise of fascist groups across Europe.

²⁸ <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2320898/Roma-gypsies-guaranteed-cash-hand-outs-police-protection-claims-London-MEP.html>

They both worked on a new EU Anti-Discrimination Directive and a recent resolution on LGBTI rights in the EU, and have campaigned for pan-EU recognition of same-sex marriages and for a strong EU stand against homophobic legislation in third countries – such as Uganda, Nigeria and India – with which the EU does business.

Both MEPs have spoken at rallies throughout the parliamentary term to mark IDAHO the 'International Day Against Homophobia' and have promoted more funding for sexual health services – especially services for victims of HIV/AIDS.

ANTI-RACISM

Jean and Keith have worked closely with the European Network Against Racism, and the Anti-racism Intergroup, of which Jean is Vice-President, to help promote EU legislation and action to combat racism in the EU and the development of xenophobic, anti-semitic political movements. She also works with the International Dalit Support Network, of which Jean is Patron, aiming to introduce legislation and other measures to end caste discrimination in parts of the EU and South Asia.

- Ensure better enforcement of the EU racial equality directive. (Greens fought hard for the directive in the first place, and will continue to work for it to be fully implemented.)
- Support the rights of minority cultures, and oppose and speak out against oppression on the grounds of religion or belief, including Islamophobia and anti-Semitism.

Gender equality

The Green Party is proud of its feminist principles. We still live in a sexist society, and we stand with all those in the UK and across Europe and the world who struggle for equality between people of all genders.

Green MEPs will:

- Continue to support moves towards gender mainstreaming in EU policy.
- Work to ensure new accession to the EU is only allowed once basic protections against gender discrimination are agreed.
- Protect, extend and demand better enforcement of regulations against gender discrimination in the workplace, including equal work for equal pay and rules against harassment.
- Demand legal changes to make it easier for women to take equal pay cases, including in groups if they so wish.
- Expand parental leave and split it more evenly between parents (see under 'workers' rights', above).
- Work to recognise the importance of unpaid labour, such as care and housework, which is much more often done by women, through an unconditional basic income (see 'fiscal policy', above).
- Continue to speak out against sexism in the media and culture. Whilst on some issues, it is inappropriate to legislate, politicians have a role in providing leadership, and Green MEPs will continue to do so.

- Continue to support a women's right to choose to have an abortion and oppose any measures to restrict this right.
- Support moves to ensure that at least half of the people making up EU institutions, including the Parliament and Commission, and European Central Bank, are women.
- Support similar mechanisms in workplaces, such as temporary quotas, to bring about a better gender balance.
- Support the ongoing work by the EU to end violence against women and related initiatives locally.
- Oppose public service and welfare cuts, which hits women disproportionately hard (see under 'fiscal policy', above).

Equality for disabled people

Greens have long been advocates of the rights of disabled people. The European Disability strategy of 2010-2020 and the EU's signing on the UN convention of the rights of disabled people are welcome steps in the right direction. But international commitments mean little to disabled people in the UK being hit hard by the coalition government's austerity programme.

Greens have been consistent voices against the cuts to the benefits and services that disabled people need, and the bedroom tax, which has hit disabled people hard despite government assurances of exemption. Greens will continue to support disabled people's organisations working in the UK and around the world for equality and justice for disabled people.

Green MEPs will:

- Continue to speak out against austerity. Where Greens can use international agreements and EU rules to challenge the UK government's assaults on disabled people, we will.
- Champion the rights of disabled people within Europe and within the political institutions of Europe.
- Continue to support the work of disabled people's organisations, including in development.



GENDER EQUALITY

The Greens/EFA group is the only group of MEPs to have a majority of women members, and a requirement for gender balance in all its senior positions.

Both Keith and Jean have voted for specific EU measures to promote

gender equality in the workplace, and against the practices of female genital mutilation, so-called 'honour' crimes against women and forced marriage as well as improvements in the way female asylum seekers are treated. Jean led the debate and supported moves to introduce EU gender guidelines for this treatment.

DISABILITY

Through his work on the Transport Committee, Keith Taylor was instrumental in the Parliament's adoption of a resolution on passenger rights, including for disabled passengers and those with reduced mobility.

AGEISM

The Green MEPs work with many organisations campaigning for age-related policies, many of which have fed into the MEPs work, such as the proposal for a Directive on Carers Leave in Jean's report on Access to Care.

CHILDREN

Jean has worked on EU rules to eliminate child abuse on the Internet, and both Jean and Keith have worked with fellow Green MEPs to establish a 'Youth Guarantee' obliging EU Member States to ensure that all young people have proper access to work or training.

- Continue to call for the implementation of the European Commission's anti-discrimination directive, and challenge attempts by Member States to block this important Directive, which supports equal rights for all, including those persons with disabilities.
- Continue to uphold the rights of passengers affected by disabilities.
- Support the proposed European Accessibility Act on the accessibility of goods and services in the EU internal market.
- Support the proposed EU Directive on the accessibility of public websites.
- Work for better accessibility of transport services and infrastructure.
- Work to ensure the removal of obstacles to free movement for disabled people and their families.
- Make EU funds barrier-free for disabled people.
- Support the proposed general non-discrimination directive.
- Work for the swift ratification by the EU and by all Member states of the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- Work towards the establishment of mechanisms within EU institutions to mainstream the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities while ensuring the involvement of persons with disabilities.

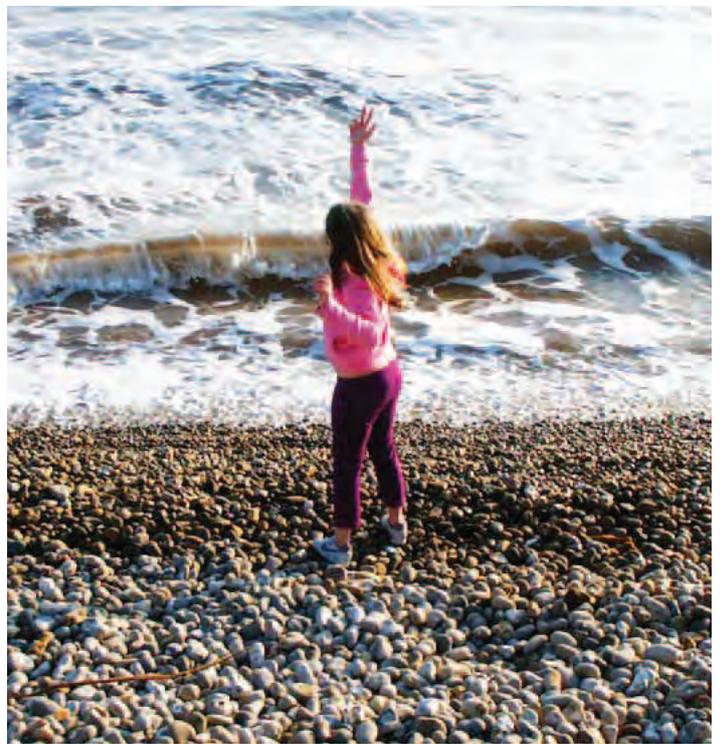
Opposing ageism

Both young and old people often suffer discrimination because of their age, and both have been hit in specific ways by austerity in the UK and across the EU. Green MEPs will:

- Oppose discrimination against anyone because of their age.
- Support the European Charter on the rights and responsibilities of older people.
- Ensure universal access to goods and services, in particular to the built environment, ICT, mobility and public services.
- Continue to oppose austerity, including the specific impacts it has on people as a result of their age.
- Work for an economy and labour market which supports people of all ages to participate how they want to (see under 'An economy for the common good').
- Protect the right to live and die in dignity.

Children's rights

Children might not have a vote in the EU, but it's important that their voices are heard and their interests never forgotten. Green MEPs will:



- Create a permanent mechanism in the European Parliament with explicit responsibility for protecting and promoting children's rights across all policy sectors in internal and external affairs.
- Exercise the European Parliament's budgetary control to ensure EU funds work in the best interests of children both internally and externally.
- Raise awareness within the European Parliament and among European citizens about children's rights and how EU policy, legislation and funds affect the lives of children in Europe and globally.
- Make proactive efforts to engage children in decision-making, monitoring and evaluation through promoting their involvement within your constituency and in EU debates, and ensuring their access to relevant and age-appropriate information.
- Make children an explicit priority in the European Semester and Europe 2020 governance system.
- Ensure that EU funds benefits children; in particular those most disadvantaged such as Roma children, children with disabilities and migrant children.
- Support implementation of the European Commission's Recommendation 'Investing in Children' in Member States.
- Ensure that children are explicitly prioritised in the implementation of regional and cohesion policies, the European Disability Strategy, the EU Framework for Roma
- Integration, in asylum and migration policies and the EU's equality and non-discrimination policy.
- Support the development of EU-wide standards with regards to child protection and promote the transition from institutional to community based care.

Religious freedom

Greens will continue to defend religious freedom in the EU and around the world. In particular, Green MEPs will:

- Support the right to freedom of worship.
- Speak out against the rise in both Islamophobia and anti-Semitism.
- Continue to argue for the EU to be a secular institution whilst recognising Europe's multi-faith history.

Stateless nations and minority languages

Europe is scattered with nations with no states and languages which are minorities in their own homes. Some of those nations are largely settled in their current constitutional arrangements. Many have significant movements for more autonomy or national independence.

Whatever the views of these peoples on national self-government, they have their own cultures and, in many cases, their own languages. It is important that these are protected.

Green MEPs will:

For stateless nations

- Support the Council of Europe Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and push the UK government to recognise the Cornish people as a minority nation.
- Defend the rights of nations to self determination, including supporting increased autonomy for nations within the EU where they seek it.
- Defend cultural rights of stateless nations.

For newly independent states

- Continue to join with our Scottish sister party in supporting Scottish independence because government ought to be closer to people.
- Stand up for the right of Catalan people to self determination, through a referendum as set by their assembly, as recognised by the UN charter.
- Push for assurances that where constituent nations of member states (for example Scotland or Catalonia) vote to become independent states, their governments will be permitted to remain within the EU at least until the completion of negotiations of the terms of their ongoing membership, and will not be forced to enter into the Euro unless they so choose. Green MEPs will work to ensure smooth accession processes on good terms in any such circumstances.

OUR EUROPE: GOVERNANCE FOR THE COMMON GOOD

The European Union is vital because some issues are best resolved at a continental level. Solidarity between neighbours is key to our common future and sometimes, decisions are best made together because they affect us all or because it is important to work together rather than compete in a race to the bottom. For these reasons, though Greens support a referendum on membership, we will campaign to keep the UK in the European Union.

But whilst supporting the principle of the EU, we will work for radical changes to the way in which it operates. It has been too captured by big business. Around 80% of stakeholders appointed to the Commission represent corporate interests. Too much of what the EU does is in the interests of the rich and powerful, not ordinary Europeans. The Parliament, the one directly democratic part of the EU, has too little power over the commission, and ordinary people and their civil society representatives are too often excluded from European policy making by bureaucracy and distance.

The UK needs more local decision-making. It is in fact one of the most centralised countries in the EU. Many other member states enjoy greater levels of local democracy. Greater local decision making primarily relies first upon change in Westminster, but the EU also has a role to play in becoming more democratic and supportive of appropriate devolution and local decision-making.

EU CITIZEN'S INITIATIVE

Keith and Jean were instrumental in shaping the 'European Citizens' Initiative' giving EU citizens the right to petition the European Commission directly to call for new legislation for the first time: several such ECIs have already gathered more than the one million signatures required, including calls for guaranteed access to water and for an EU-wide vivisection ban.

TRANSPARENCY

Keith and Jean have consistently voted for increased transparency and accountability in the EU.

Institutions of the EU

Green MEPs will push the EU to:

- Propose a constitution for the EU, to be agreed by referendum across Europe, which outlines the basic rights of citizens of the EU and the scope and limits to its powers, but not individual policies or applications of those powers.
- Increase the power of the European Parliament to initiate legislation and to monitor and force transparency in the activities of the Council of Ministers and the Commission.
 - i) Committees of the Parliament should be empowered to demand papers and testimony from the Council and the Commission.
 - ii) The budget of the EU ought to be agreed by the Council and the Parliament by ordinary legislative procedure.
- Ensure that the Council of Ministers makes decisions by qualified majority voting. This requires recognition by all member countries that proposals must take into account the diversity of Europe and the particular situation of each country, and recognition by each member country that after such account has been taken consent should not be unreasonably withheld.
- Agree a statute defining the scope of the powers of the Court of Justice of the European Union and accepting the primacy of democratic decision making.

Green MEPs will push the EU to:

- Ensure that legislation is as much as possible formed by consensus, and said legislation when produced is as clear and unambiguous as possible. Ambiguous legislation that is unevenly adopted can have worrying implications. Loopholes give governments and lobbyists the power to mobilise against important directives and weaken important protections. If an area ought not to be a European competency, then decisions should be devolved transparently back to national governments. If it ought to be a competency, it should be enforced as such.
- Improve the delivery of its commitment to subsidiarity. Whilst Greens support the EU making decisions which ought to be made at a continental level, we do not support the endless centralisation of power into Europe. Rather, national governments – particularly the UK government – should hand powers to the most appropriate level possible, where it is most easily influenced by people. Devolution has been a huge success in Scotland and Wales and Northern Ireland. Westminster

ought to consider how it can better hand power to people in England, and the EU ought to support such a decentralisation of powers, not seek to become a super-state. Where the EU has ruled on areas not within its scope, the Parliaments of member states should have more easily be able to challenge this.

- End the rotation between Brussels and Strasbourg parliaments. We only need one seat for the European Parliament.
- Lower the voting age in European elections to 16.
- Continue to support the Citizen's Initiative which allows EU citizens to set the agenda through public petitions; continue to work to make it more effective and participative, for example by lowering the minimum age requirement and increasing efforts to facilitate its wider use through better promotion and, for example, by allowing questions on all matters pertinent to the European Commission.

Transparency

- Develop a mandatory register of lobbyists for all areas of the EU.
- Ensure campaign finance transparency for every candidate in European elections.
- Support proposals that will serve to maximise transparency and enable citizens to participate in legislative processes of the EU, through better access to documents (including consultations) in all European languages.
- Support measures that promote the availability of government data to citizens as well as the usage of open formats and open standards in government.
- Ensure better access to information on EU expenditure.
- Ensure that a parliamentary watchdog is set up to monitor and make transparent negotiations in all trade deals.
- Ensure that citizens of member countries have the right to examine any EU documents, source materials and decisions proceeding at any time, without further justification. Exceptions to this rule should be specially decided upon and explained publicly, including the types of documents being withheld and the reasons for that.
- Ensure that the EU has an obligation to regularly publicise and promote data about itself proactively.

New EU members

- End the requirement that new member states to join the Euro, and develop mechanisms for those who are in the Euro to gradually leave should they so wish without destabilising the European economy. The Green Party of England and Wales has always believed that monetary

policy is to sensitive an economic lever to operate on a continental scale.

- Ensure that any European country is allowed to apply to join the EU.

Pan-European policing

Policing must be open and controlled at the lowest appropriate level if there is to be public consent and democratic accountability. Co-operation at higher levels must not be allowed to undermine that democratic control. Greens therefore believe that the role of the European police force should be limited as far as possible.

The Green Party is not opposed to proper and accountable international co-operation by national police forces against such cross border organised crime, such as tax evasion, financial fraud and people trafficking. However, we believe this should be accompanied by strong safeguards for individuals, effective democratic scrutiny and legal redress. In any operational capacity, Europol should only act in support of national and regional authorities.

Green MEPs will work to ensure that:

- Europol is accountable to EU citizens and is not used to evade national legislation or counter international norms concerning human rights. Its operatives must be subject to relevant national or EU legislation in the performance of their roles.
- Europol agents are not immune from domestic laws.
- Control and scrutiny of Europol is strengthened through effective cooperation between the national and EU Parliaments, laid down in statute. Judicial control may be provided through the Court of Justice of the EU and national courts as appropriate.
- Ensure rigorous legislation to protect any data held by Europol.
- Ensure proper monitoring and accountability of Europol's engagement with BME communities, in recognition of the structural racism found in police forces throughout Europe.
- Reinforce and support collaboration between member state customs' services so as to effectively track and seize goods made by child and forced labour.

Freedom online: defending the internet, protecting your privacy

The revelations resulting from Edward Snowden's brave decision to blow the whistle on the surveillance of people across the world were shocking. Green MEPs have long fought for the right of all citizens to privacy. Specifically, Green MEPs will:

- Support the implementation of data protection legislation

at the EU level with no watering down.

- Work for an EU digital bill of rights, to protect net freedom and neutrality.
- Push for the repeal of the Data Retention Directive, which compels telecommunications companies to keep a raft of personal data on European citizens.
- Campaign to stop Air Passenger Name Records from being shared with any foreign governments on a blanket basis and oppose other EU-US agreements aimed at expanding the Pentagon's ability to monitor citizens.
- Support legislation that promotes and protects the fundamental right of citizens to privacy. This includes empowering us to proactively decide if and how our personal data are processed.
- Support measures aiming at ensuring adequate levels of transparency and security of data processing.
- Support legislation that aims at removing any registration or any other restrictive requirements on the provision of Internet content or services.
- Oppose any proposal for storage or surveillance of communications data that has not been subjected to credible, independent assessment for necessity and proportionality or that is not subject to regular review to ensure compliance with these criteria.
- Support legislative proposals to safeguard online anonymity and the right to use encryption; and measures to develop and promote, with legal obligations, where appropriate, the use of privacy-enhancing technologies.
- Oppose any measure or initiative that pre-empts judicial review of alleged online infringements by seeking to encourage, coerce or permit Internet service providers and other organisations to police or punish alleged online infringements except when the measures taken are imposed for a very short time, where the alleged infringement involves imminent danger to human beings and when the state in which the intermediary is based is required to take action to address the problem urgently.
- Support legislation that prevents oppressive regimes from acquiring surveillance and censorship technology and services from any entity in the European Union and in the meantime, oppose any state or EU assistance, such as export credit, for such trade.
- Support free, open, bottom-up, and multi-stakeholder models of coordinating the Internet resources and standards - names, numbers, addresses etc. Green MEPs will support measures which seek to ensure the capacity of representative civil society to participate in multi-stakeholder forums and will oppose any attempts by corporate, governmental or intergovernmental agencies to take control of Internet governance.
- Encourage the use of Free/Libre/Open Source software by all EU institutions and member state governments.

- Place Free/Libre/Open Source Software on an equal competitive footing with proprietary software, require the use of open standards for information produced by or for public entities, grant the public free and unrestricted access to all government-funded endeavours.

PROTECTING OUR INTERNET FREEDOM

Green MEPs have been at the centre of campaigns to protect our 'digital rights' and online privacy, especially regarding agreements between the EU and US over data sharing and retention, and helped force the EU to abandon controversial plans for ACTA – an international anti-counterfeiting agreement whose opponents include the Open Rights Group and Privacy International. European Greens have played a key role in calling for overarching rules on data protection, which are better placed than a patchwork of national laws, to protect citizens.

Human rights and civil liberties

Green MEPs have long fought for the rights of people in Europe and around the world to be respected. They have consistently called for the repeal of draconian anti-terror legislation, and the closure of the US Torture Camp at Guantanamo Bay. They have called for EU countries to find a home for Guantanamo detainees 'cleared for release', and Jean has worked closely with the London Guantanamo campaign to try to secure the release of Shaker Aamer, the London resident still being held after 12 years.

The Green MEPs have signed the 'Child Rights Pledge', urged the EU to sign up to the European Convention on Human Rights, spoken out about human rights abuses in Turkey, Burma, Russia – and in the extractive industries prevalent in Africa and South America.

Jean has promoted World Day Against the Death Penalty and UN Human Rights Day.

They have used their status as MEPs to pursue legal challenges to Israeli attacks on a Gaza-bound aid flotilla, and on behalf of the Greenpeace activists arrested while protesting against oil exploration in the Arctic. Jean Lambert has worked with the Camden/Abu-Dis Friendship Society to help secure visas for Palestinian visitors to London, and is a member of Waltham Forest Palestine Solidarity Campaign. She has campaigned against the police use of the controversial tactic of 'kettling' demonstrators in London, against slavery and human trafficking and, successfully, for a UN ban on female genital mutilation.

Green MEPs will continue to use their platform to defend human rights in the UK, EU and around the world.

BANNING CLUSTER BOMBS

In 2010 and 2011, Greens won support from fellow European Parliamentarians to pass resolutions banning the use, production and stockpiling of cluster bombs on the continent.

FRAMEWORK FOR DEVELOPMENT

Keith has urged for a future framework which tackles problems such as unfair international trade relationships, the power of corporations, and global tax evasion. He's also called for a focus on reducing inequality, as well as hunger and poverty, as new development targets are put into place.

DEFENDING FREEDOM FROM OPPRESSION

Jean Lambert chairs the European Parliament's Delegation to six countries in South Asia, and visits them to raise issues of human rights, democracy, trade and sustainability with MPs, prime ministers and presidents. Greens have also fought against any attempts by the EU to develop its own military drone programme.

KEITH SPEAKS OUT FOR PALESTINIANS

As a member of the Delegation for relations with the Palestinian Legislative Council (DPLC), Keith Taylor has long spoken out against the abuses of the rights of Palestinians.

PEACE, JUSTICE, AND OUR PLACE IN THE WORLD

Foreign and Defence Policy

While Greens believe that foreign policy ought to be determined by national governments, not the EU, we accept that the EU as it is has a significant role in foreign policy, and a regrettably growing role in defence policy. Green MEPs have consistently worked to make Europe a force for peace and justice in the world and so long as the EU maintains its power on the world stage, will continue to work to ensure that this power is used for good.

Peace and defence

Green MEPs will push the EU to:

- Move away from the militarisation of the EU.
- Support the creation of a European Peace Corps to allow for civilian peace-building and disaster response efforts at times of crisis.
- Ban weapons of mass destruction from the EU, including France and Britain's nuclear weapons.
- Ban landmines and cluster bombs from the EU.
- Oppose the establishment of an EU military drones program.
- End the ongoing militarisation of the EU. A union that was established in part to prevent future wars should not be in the business of establishing its own army.
- End any EU funding for research for military purposes.

- Continue to support the EU's Instrument for Stability and Peace, for which Greens have won increased funding in the past.
- Support youth and student exchanges across Europe, twinning programmes, and other initiatives to ensure that never again will a generation be convinced that another people is their enemy simply by dint of nationality or race.
- Establish a European Peace Institute, where expertise on peace-building can be pooled and shared.
- Oppose the sale of military technology, including arms and surveillance technology, to oppressive regimes, and campaign for much stricter regulation of the arms trade.
- Support the current international courts and work towards the establishment of a court in which transnational companies can be tried.

Our nearest neighbours

The EU has an important role in working with our nearest neighbours. In particular, Green MEPs will work within the EU to:

- Ensure activists for democracy and equality fleeing our neighbours are granted refugee status within the EU if they request it.
- Provide support for civil society movements for equality and democracy in neighbouring countries where they seek it.
- Work to ensure peace in Ukraine, including offering EU support for democratic elections in the country.

Other international blocks

The EU should be working with other international blocks who wish to build a more just and sustainable world. In particular, Green MEPs will work within the EU to:

DEMOCRACY IN DEVELOPMENT

As a member of the European Parliament's Development Committee, Keith has pushed for democracy, the protection of human rights and environmental protection to be at the centre of any new UN framework on international development. Keith travelled to the United Nations in New York to attend discussions of its future development goals, where he promoted the Green message of respecting developing countries's autonomy in negotiations over new development goals.

- Build links with ALBA, the Latin American international co-operation organisation.
- Build links with the African Union, Arab League, CARICOM, Organization of American States, Association of Southeast Asian Nations and South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation.

Israel, Palestine and the Quartet

Greens have long stood against a number of policies of the Israeli state and continue to call for a just and peaceful settlement in the Middle East, recognising the rights of the Palestinian people as well as those of Israelis in a way that is both fair and humane. An equitable choice needs to be made and accepted by both Israelis and Palestinians: the right to security for Israeli citizens should be considered alongside the rights of Palestinians, including refugees.

Green MEPs will push the EU to use its role as a part of the Middle East Quartet to encourage full respect for UN mandates relating to the rights of Palestinians, and to call upon the state of Israel to negotiate with the democratically-elected government of the Palestinian people, end collective punishment of Palestinians, including arbitrary 'administrative detention', end illegal occupation of Palestinian land, and to ensure that Palestinians have access to water and other amenities, including right of access to their own farm land. We also call on the democratically-elected representatives of the Palestinian people to recognise the right of the state of Israel to exist within recognised, agreed and secure borders.

Green MEPs also call upon the European Union to ensure that agreements of Association with Israel are suspended unless and until an undertaking is secured that the state of Israel will enter into the dialogue called for above, and ensures that the human rights of Palestinians are assured as are those of Israelis.

PROMOTING THE ZERO HUNGER CHALLENGE

Keith has campaigned against cuts to the EU's global aid budgets. Amongst his work to promote stronger food policies, he has called for the consideration of the impacts of Indirect land-use change and he has stood against the use of food grains for fuel and financial speculation on food prices. Keith has also worked with the United Nations in promoting the 'Zero Hunger Challenge' to drive towards a world free from malnutrition.

Syria

The crisis in Syria is a humanitarian disaster, and the first role of Western states should be to provide aid to those who need it. Greens never saw bombing the country as a solution to the violence there, and will continue to work with the EU to help bring peace to the country, not more violence.

Helping build a just, sustainable world

The EU is a major trading block, and has an important role in supporting movements for justice across the planet.

Green MEPs will work within the EU to:

- Support LGBTIQ rights, oppose racism, ableism, sexism and all other forms of oppression around the world. In doing so, it is important that the EU recognises the historic place of many of its member states as colonial powers, and works not by bullying other countries, but by supporting indigenous movements for justice in their demands, in the ways they say will be helpful.
- Continue to support projects to monitor public sector procurement.
- Push for more ambitious global climate targets, based on the principle of contraction and convergence, under which overall emissions are reduced, whilst per capita emissions of richer and poorer countries converge on a similar place. (see under 'climate change' above).

Development

Greens will continue to support increased aid budgets and the autonomy of the peoples of developing countries in choosing how to use it.

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We depend on the support of our members for all the work we do – we don't get donations from big corporates like other parties.

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