



making tracks



Over the last six months Jean and Keith have continued to work on a number of animal welfare issues including live exports of farm animals, shark finning and animal experiments. They have also worked on foie gras, the UK badger cull and the trade in wild pets. The Green MEPs will continue to push for greater protection and improved conditions for animals across the world.

Animal rights from Jean Lambert and Keith Taylor, Green Party MEPs for London and the South East

TEAM BADGER

GUITARIST and wildlife campaigner Brian May met with Keith and Jean during a recent visit to Brussels to discuss the legality of the UK's proposed badger cull.

Both MEPs have worked hard with other Greens and animal rights campaigners to try to persuade the Government to abandon the proposed cull, designed to help prevent the spread of TB in cattle but which is likely to have little impact – or even cause bovine TB to spread further and faster.

Last autumn Green Party MP Caroline Lucas helped win a year-long reprieve for the hundreds of thousands of threatened badgers.

Jean said: *“The Green Party strongly opposes the proposed badger cull on the basis of the scientific evidence and significant animal welfare, public safety and ethical concerns. We now have just a few months to explore whether a vaccine can be commercially developed that would protect both cows and badgers.”*

Keith added: *“I am aware of the negative impact the disease is having on the cattle and along with my work to oppose the badger cull I will push for alternative measures that will provide a truly sustainable solution to TB.”*

The UK Government are due to revisit plans this year.



Green MEPs vote to end barbaric ‘shark finning’

Jean and Keith have welcomed a ban on ‘shark finning’ agreed by the European Parliament.

The proposed ban – which will now be considered by the European Commission before becoming binding – will mean fishing fleets in EU waters, and EU fishing fleets operating anywhere in the world, will no longer be able to catch sharks simply to remove their fins for use in traditional ‘Shark Fin Soup’ before dumping the remaining corpse back in the sea.

Jean said: *“I am delighted that MEPs have voted to ban this barbaric practice. Every year millions of sharks are caught, their fins hacked off, and the bodies simply discarded to meet the demand for the very expensive delicacy of shark fin soup.”*

Keith added: *“The new rules, which effectively close a loophole in EU fishing law, will mean fewer sharks are caught and killed.”*

Greens support groups such as **Shark Alliance** which are calling for domestic and international catch limits to fully address the overexploitation of sharks.



Guitarist Brian May meets Jean and Keith in Brussels to discuss the UK's proposed badger cull.

Greens win ban on dead fish 'dumping'



Jean and Keith have backed a radical overhaul of the EU rules governing commercial fishing which will ban the 'dumping' of much dead fish back into the sea.

Under current EU rules, fishing fleets are forbidden from landing more than their catch quota. The EU estimates that around half of the fish caught in the North Sea are thrown back into the ocean, dead.

Jean said: "Our oceans are facing

a crisis. Fishing fleets face economic hardship, yet the numbers of many popular fish species are dwindling – to the point where some species are now threatened with extinction."

Keith added: "This takes us a big step closer to a sustainable fisheries policy: for too long we've been fishing at such a rate that numbers can't be replenished. This historic change gives us a chance to secure fisheries for future generations and guarantee long-term jobs."

Enough is enough: Time to end live exports

Photo: Compassion in World Farming



Keith has been working closely with campaigners in Ramsgate on the issue of the live export of animals for slaughter.

Keith has written to the UK's Animal Welfare minister David Heath MP following the death of 45 sheep injured during transport at Ramsgate port, insisting that existing EU regula-

tions on animal transport are properly enforced in the UK.

Across the EU millions of animals have to endure long journeys. Animal welfare organisations frequently highlight that regulations are often not met with animals being transported in poor conditions resulting in exhaustion, dehydration, stress and in some cases, death.

Keith and Jean have also backed a million-strong petition calling for an eight hour maximum journey time for the transport of live animals. They joined other Greens in calling for the European Parliament to adopt this position but it was rejected by MEPs. However, the Parliament did call for animals to be slaughtered locally wherever possible. Keith and Jean will continue to campaign for an end to live exports from the UK and for better protection of animals in transit.

Foie Gras cruelty

Keith has voiced his dismay at the ongoing cruelty of the foie gras industry. As a foie gras promotional event was launched in the European Parliament, Keith and his colleagues supported a counter event, aiming to highlight the horrific facts about the industry.

Foie gras is produced by force feeding ducks and geese large quantities of food. A funnel is forced into the oesophagus of each bird, causing the liver to expand to 6-10 times the size of that normally seen in these animals.

Currently, the force feeding of ducks and geese is not prohibited, the only exception to the EU ban on force-feeding of all other animals.

Keith has written a question to the European Commission questioning how the Commission intends to lift obstacles to the marketing of alternatives to foie gras.

Highlighting the dangers of the foreign pet trade

Keith co-hosted an event in the European Parliament on the trade of wild pets. The trade of foreign animals is a growing industry, with the transportation of thousands of species across the world to be sold as pets. While these animals may seem appealing to consumers, the movement of species can endanger local biodiversity and ecology. Additionally, the well-being of animals is put at risk during the trading process. Foreign species carry new diseases which can affect humans, whilst venomous species or large primates have the potential to cause considerable injury, and even fatality.

Keith tabled a written question to the European Council and European Commission on foreign animals kept as pets in the EU. In this question he asked what measures are being taken to ensure the welfare needs are met of captive animals and traded pets, and what further measures could be taken.

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