



WHY GREENS SAY YES TO EUROPE



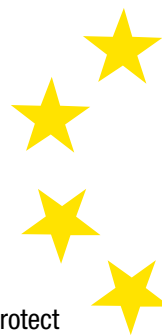
#GreenerIN

WHY GREENS SAY

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YES TO EUROPE



Jean Lambert
Green Party MEP
for London

Greens have a clear vision for Europe. The European Union should protect our rights, be a world-leader on the environment and tackling climate change, strongly regulate transnational big business, and be a force for peace and justice in the world.

The EU is also about solidarity and collective action. It provides the opportunity to look beyond narrowly-defined national interests to work for progress on issues of common concern, which cannot be dealt with as effectively by countries acting alone. Compared to David Cameron, ours is a different view of Europe. We oppose many of the measures the UK Government wants for a new UK-EU settlement and its overall vision of what the Europe Union should be. We reject Cameron's 'best of both worlds' approach which wants the UK to only take from Europe and give nothing back.



Molly Scott-Cato
Green Party MEP
for the South West

Regardless of the relative success or failure of Cameron's negotiations, we believe that the UK's place is within a political family of democratic nations that is the European Union. There are many reasons why the EU is important – for defending our rights and freedoms, for challenging the power of multinational corporations (which countries are ill-equipped to do individually) and, crucially, for taking collective action to protect the planet.

We know the EU is far from perfect, just as with Westminster. We want to change Westminster's archaic unelected second chamber, undemocratic voting system and its current austerity politics. So we also want change at EU level: more powers to the European Parliament in relation to the other EU institutions, primacy given to social and environmental standards, and stronger regulation of transnational big business, including the banks.



Keith Taylor
Green Party MEP
for the South East

Greens continue to oppose and vote against TTIP, the EU-US trade deal currently being negotiated, and to challenge the austerity being inflicted upon Greece. But both TTIP and Greek austerity have arisen through political choices, and in both cases the EU could take very different positions, given the political will. The underlying issues (trade justice and austerity politics) will not, however, be dealt with simply by the UK leaving the EU.

We need to stay in the European Union and work with fellow European Greens for progress on all these fronts, not walk away to the margins, leaving the big political battles to others.

We hope this publication will inform the debate on the EU referendum, and be used as part of the Green case for the UK remaining in the EU.

Jean's areas of work include free movement, asylum, equalities, climate justice and green jobs. She sits on the European Parliament's Employment & Social Affairs and Civil Liberties committees, and chairs its South Asia delegation.

Jean is Co-President of the Parliament's Anti-Racism Intergroup and is patron of human rights theatre company ice&fire. She has recently produced publications on TTIP, the refugee crisis and air pollution.

Jean co-chairs the Green Party's Greens For Europe campaign to remain in the EU and is the party's Migration spokesperson.



Jean Lambert Green Party MEP for London @GreenJeanMEP

The European Union has a commitment to human rights as part of its core purpose. The last Treaty change added the Charter of Fundamental Rights¹, which builds on the rights that people have under national laws, including through the European Convention, and makes sure that EU rules and laws are also covered. The Charter added some new areas such as data protection and bioethics. The 1999 Treaty update also made it a requirement for EU trade and development policy to be a positive force for human rights, which can be a difficult discussion when some national governments in the EU are not seen to be living up to their ideals.

For many years, the EU has been viewed as the 'protector' of our rights at work for those of us living in the UK. Rights, such as to health and safety - protecting many nurses from back injury, pregnant women from potentially risky substances and ensuring workers have the right to breaks and an average working time of no more than 48 hours (although the UK got a 'voluntary' opt-out for individual employees to go beyond the 48).

The EU has set down rules for part-time and agency workers, the right to non-discrimination in the workplace - extending UK law to include age, sexual orientation and faith or belief - and has also extended rights regarding equal treatment beyond the workplace on grounds of gender and race and ethnicity.

1 See Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.
www.europarl.europa.eu/charter/pdf/text_en.pdf





Above: Jean supporting Refugee Week in London.

Left: Jean championing cycling as part of European Mobility Week in Brussels.

Below: Jean with TUC General Secretary Frances O'Grady and former EU Commissioner László Andor, discussing workers rights and green jobs in London.

All of these are important in a diverse city such as London. So are the rules on treating EU citizens as you would your own nationals when it comes to social security rights, ensuring no-one loses out if they move within the EU – something that over two million Brits are grateful for, whether they've retired to Spain, study in the Netherlands or work in Poland.

6 The European Union has a commitment to human rights as part of its core purpose.

Now we see that 'social Europe' is under threat. UK Governments have always been lukewarm: Labour signed up to the Social Charter but then went for national priority on areas such as the right to strike in the Charter of Fundamental Rights; Labour, Conservatives and Lib Dems leaders all argued to keep the 'opt-out' on Working Time. There is wider concern that the 'Better Regulation' (REFIT) programme could unpick important health and safety rules; that 'posted-workers' (employees sent to work cross-border to provide services) are being used to undercut local workers and that the drastic measures taken in countries such as Portugal and Greece have undermined 'social' Europe.

6 The EU has extended equal rights beyond the workplace on grounds of gender, race and ethnicity. This is important in a diverse city like London.

There is a fight-back at EU level and cross-border solutions are needed. The current UK Government is clear that its priority is business and British business at that, not defending social Europe, decent work and the wider human rights agenda – which are so important to Greens.





Keith's areas of work include transport, energy, the environment and animal rights. He sits on the European Parliament's Committees on Transport and Tourism, and Environment, Public Health and Food Safety.

Keith is the Green Party's Animals spokesperson and Vice Chair of the Parliament's animal welfare Intergroup. He recently won the MEP for Animals award.

Keith sits on the Parliament's Palestine delegation, and works with groups on LGBTI rights and Alzheimer's. He has recently published reports on community energy, the housing crisis and air pollution.

Keith Taylor Green Party MEP for the South East @GreenKeithMEP

The EU was formed, in large part, as a heart-felt reaction to two world wars, with a determination to avoid future conflicts. Decades later and that ambition has been fulfilled, but the EU must do more than maintain peace to prove its worth in the 21st century – the EU must be a force for the common good, protecting the well-being of its citizens and the environment in which we live.

6 Britain is far better off in the EU working with our neighbours on the shared challenges we face.

Doubtless there will always be criticism of the EU, some of which will be justified, but there is a growing realisation that Britain is far better off when we work with our neighbours on the shared challenges we face. Because many of these challenges span national borders – from climate change, to growing resource constraints, and biodiversity loss.

The EU is responsible for around 80% of all environmental laws in the UK and there are many examples where the EU has driven positive change here in



the UK. Take the EU's Nature Laws: the Birds and Habitats Directives. Through these laws the UK has designated hundreds of nature and marine conservation sites. Protected wildlife sites were being lost at 15% a year before EU action; now the rate is just 1% a year. It's also EU standards on air quality, healthy rivers and clean beaches that are forcing our UK Government to clean up its act.

Preventing climate change is of course central to the protection of our environment. Surely working with our neighbours to tackle a complex, cross-border challenge of this magnitude is far better than going it alone. The EU has led the way in pushing for ambitious targets on climate change – from its role in setting the 1992 UN climate convention, to the latest climate talks in Paris – and plays an important part in promoting the measures needed to achieve these targets. The switch to renewable energy and sustainable transport are prime objectives for our 50 strong group of Green MEPs.

On animal welfare too, great progress has been made at EU level in recognising animals as sentient beings, and setting a precedent on global standards through bans on battery cages for hens and cosmetics testing on animals.

6 The EU has led the way in pushing for ambitious targets on climate change. EU standards on air quality, healthy rivers and clean beaches are also forcing our UK Government to clean up its act.



Keith joins RSPB staff at Pulborough Brooks nature reserve, home to birds and habitats protected under EU law.

Whether you live in a city or small village, the EU provides important safeguards which affect our daily lives. It is easy to take these protections for granted – indeed, I doubt most people know that things like the Nature Laws exist, let alone what impact they have. But with a referendum around the corner, we all need to think carefully about how European law affects our lives and our country.

As a Green I believe our most important function is to steer the direction of every parliament we're part of. Sometimes that means challenging the status-quo and the corporations which seek to bring influence to bear in their own interests. It's sometimes messy, and decisions can be taken that Greens don't like, but that is democracy. And while our own UK Government is often lobbying to take away and weaken environmental protections provided by the EU, it's our shared laws which are working effectively to protect the wildlife and nature that we hold so dear. Like any democracy, it is only by keeping our seat at the table that we can have a say.

MOLLY SCOTT CATO is Green MEP for the South West of England, elected in May 2014.

She sits on the Economics and Monetary Affairs Committee and the Agricultural Committee in the European Parliament and is a member of the Special Committee on Tax.

Molly is also Green Party spokesperson on economics and finance. She has published widely, particularly on issues related to green economics, and is formerly Professor of Strategy and Sustainability at the University of Roehampton.



Molly Scott Cato Green Party MEP for the South West @MollyMEP

Much of what we need to achieve to build the world Greens want to see is being blocked by the power of multinational corporations. Because they operate across national boundaries we need institutions that are also supra-national. In a globalized world where capital crosses borders freely we need international rules to keep financial interests in check and to ensure that companies pay their taxes so that we can fund public services.



6 Determined action by Green MEPs ensured that the UK Government was forced to limit bankers' bonuses.

As Greens we have been highly critical of the lack of action to regulate banks in the wake of the financial crisis and we don't think that either the European or British banking authorities have gone far enough. Determined action by Green MEPs ensured that the UK Government was forced to limit bankers' bonuses, but there is still no legally required separation between retail and commercial banking – that is to say there is nothing separating my current account from the kind of financial speculation which caused the financial crisis.



Far right: Fighting for the common good in Europe.

Right: Renewable energy can provide for all our energy needs in Europe.

Left: Molly being interviewed about Hinkley power station outside Europe House in London.



Below left: Molly campaigning in Bristol for more jobs in the renewable energy sector.

But you won't be surprised to hear that for the Tories the priority is also ensuring complete freedom for the City of London¹ to operate outside the remit of European legislation. While Greens fought for the UK to keep the pound and believe that Britain and other EU countries outside the Eurozone should have an effective influence on EU economic policy, we don't think that special exemptions for the City can be right. We would seek EU-wide co-operation to prevent banks taking reckless risks and damaging the real economy. If we are to be a single market then we need to agree the framework for safe banking for the common good.

“ Greens argue for EU action on banking regulation and tax justice, including an EU-wide financial transaction tax, stronger regulation of the financial sector, and tougher EU rules to close tax loopholes.

I see the importance of cooperation across the EU through my work on ending corporate tax avoidance. At present the global corporations are shifting their profits across national boundaries and encouraging countries to engage in a race to the bottom so that they can retain more of their profits. This is starving all our public coffers of revenue and making it impossible to fund public services properly. We can only address this issue by co-operation, and I am working with colleagues from across Europe to change laws so that the corporations cannot avoid their responsibilities. This is starting to work but only because the companies see the writing on the wall as European countries work together to prevent tax avoidance in the single market.

As Greens we would argue for stronger EU action on banking regulation and tax justice including an EU-wide financial transactions tax, strong regulation of the finance sector, and tougher EU rules to close tax loopholes and tackle tax fraud and evasion. All of these policies to curb the power of the corporations and get the economy working for people need Europe-wide cooperation.

¹ This refers to the UK financial services sector based predominantly in or near the City of London.



Opposing TTIP shouldn't make you a Eurosceptic

Greens have been at the forefront of campaigns to oppose TTIP, the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership. Its proponents claim the agreement will 'unlock' EU-US trade potential by getting rid of so-called 'barriers to trade'. However, these are often regulations which protect social, environmental and labour standards or the provision of health and other public services. The negative impacts of TTIP are likely to be wide-ranging, and include animal welfare, GMOs, generic medicine, digital rights, financial regulation and much more. There is particular concern over the impact on jobs.¹

So is TTIP a good reason for leaving the EU? We say no

TTIP is happening because it has political support amongst governments and political leaders across the EU and US. Progressing TTIP was a UK General Election manifesto pledge of Cameron's Tories. They want to take Britain into TTIP regardless of whether we are inside or outside the EU. Free-market Eurosceptics have said they want Britain to negotiate with the US as equal partners in a UK-US trade deal. That is extremely unlikely to work in the UK's economic favour. If TTIP goes ahead it is more likely that a UK outside the EU would ask to join TTIP as an additional signatory after the deal is completed. Once

outside the EU, UK citizens will have less opportunity to work with citizens from across Europe to defeat TTIP. The EU-wide anti-TTIP movement has grown in recent years, with over 3.3 million EU citizens signing a European Initiative to stop it. This movement will be weakened by a UK exit, inevitably putting UK anti-TTIP campaigners, such as trade justice activists, at the margins on the issue.

TTIP is bad, but it is important not to forget the thousands of other trade and investment agreements which are agreed bi-laterally between nation states, including the UK. A proposed UK

trade deal with Ethiopia and a recent deal with Colombia show the UK Government is happy to sign up to other damaging trade deals. Added together the impacts of such agreements are arguably as damaging as TTIP, if not more so.

TTIP's Investor-State Dispute Settlement mechanism is rightly maligned. ISDS lets investors sue governments in private arbitration tribunals outside national court legal systems, and can exert a 'chilling effect' which undermines the introduction of progressive legislation. There is currently an ongoing battle over its inclusion in TTIP, but ISDS mechanisms have been routinely included in existing trade agreements, including many agreed by the UK. Globally, over 500 ISDS cases are known to have been brought as a result of these agreements.² The problems with ISDS go far beyond TTIP or the EU, and Greens, like other trade justice campaigners, want ISDS stripped from all trade agreements, not just TTIP.

What about Greece?

The secrecy of the TTIP negotiations is opposed by Greens and those concerned about transparency and trade justice, but this is also a feature of other trade negotiations. Transparency in trade deal negotiations needs addressing across the board, and not just in TTIP or those other trade deals involving the EU.

In fact on both ISDS and transparency in TTIP we have seen progress at EU level, following the concerted efforts of engaged MEPs, campaigners and a better informed public. ISDS is now seriously contested and could get taken out of the agreement, and we have seen progress on disclosure and access to documents.

Greens want trade justice in all trade agreements. This also means safeguarding democracy and the rule of law. As well as stopping damaging agreements, we want these objectives applied to all trade negotiations, whether involving the EU or not.

These political battles won't be advanced by the UK leaving the EU. The lesson from TTIP, and the powerful transnational corporations it will benefit, is that we need to stand firmly together to tackle the underlying issues, not become divided and leave the fight to others.

The Syriza Government, the Greek Greens and most other Greek progressives do not want their country to leave the EU or the Eurozone. A central objective of Syriza has been to retain Greece's Eurozone and EU membership. Our solidarity with Greece must keep this in mind.

The Euro did not cause the Greek debt crisis. In fact the first EU country to receive economic bail-outs following the 2008 global financial crisis was Latvia, which was then outside the Eurozone.

The EU is an extremely rich economic region, with higher total GDP than either the US or China. It has the potential to redistribute wealth from rich to poor and to foster solidarity between the peoples of Europe. The people of Greece and other lower income EU Member States should be the beneficiaries of a successful, effective EU. As one of the EU's richest countries, we want the UK to stay in the EU and work towards these goals. Even if the current UK Government doesn't share these objectives or priorities today, that's no reason to argue for the UK to leave.

Greens wholeheartedly oppose the austerity foisted upon Greece, which has been inhumane and counterproductive. But the underlying force at work is the relationship between creditors and debtor, and Greece's creditors – which includes the UK Government and other national governments, not just EU-level institutions – have been too eager to extract

maximum short-term economic return regardless of human cost and longer-term impacts.

As with other indebted countries, writing off unpayable debts and investing in essential services and infrastructure can offer the best solutions in terms of rebuilding an economy and providing the most humanitarian outcome. Green MEPs have argued that Greece needs a major investment plan to counter the recessionary and self-defeating austerity measures demanded by the creditors.¹ A stable Greece on the way to genuine recovery is in the interests of Europe, both economically and politically.

Social protection and solidarity are central principles of the EU.² They form part of a vision of the EU as Social Europe, a peoples' Europe. Green MEPs have argued that the EU has an important role and duty in combating austerity and EU rules governing the single currency should fit with these objectives. In accordance with its core principles, the EU has the potential to help deliver a just outcome for Greece, which must look beyond the narrow, short-term interests of her creditors.

1 Jean Lambert MEP, 2015/16, What's Wrong With TTIP: voices opposing the EU-US trade agreement – a collection of articles explaining the issues and highlighting anti-TTIP campaigns by Green MEPs and trade justice activists. www.jeanlambertmep.org.uk/?p=3235

2 Traidcraft Exchange, 2015, International Investment Agreements Under Scrutiny.

1 Greens-EFA press statement, 27.06.2015. www.greens-efa.eu/eurogroupgreece-14258.html

2 See Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. www.europarl.europa.eu/charter/pdf/text_en.pdf



A GREEN VISION

Greens want progressive, radical change. At national level, we want Westminster elections to become truly representative, an end to practices favouring tradition over democracy and accountability, like the unelected House of Lords, and action to tackle the unacceptable influence of big business over UK politics. We want a UK Government with a different set of priorities for Britain. But we don't argue for abolishing national government in Westminster.



Similarly, at European level we are arguing for a *Green vision of the EU*. UK Green MEPs want to continue to work with other Green MEPs elected to the European Parliament from across the EU, currently making a political group of around 50. We are working together to build a people-centred Europe – greener, more democratic, and which, crucially, constrains powerful global corporations and protects our rights. In particular, economic activity must serve society and not compromise the environment, which means the free-market must be challenged. So at European level Greens want stronger EU social and environmental standards and for these to be given primacy above competition and the single market.

Greens also recognise the potential for the EU to have a greater positive impact internationally, in terms of climate action, human rights, peace and global justice.

We make no apology for having a profoundly different vision for Europe and the UK's role in it, compared to the Government and other political voices in the UK. We reject the Eurosceptic claim that the EU is 'unreformable'. The EU is no more unreformable than Westminster, and leaving doesn't bring our vision of Europe any closer. **The opportunity to make this vision real is only possible if we remain in the EU!**



FOR THE EU ...

The green vision

- Social and environmental standards to be given primacy over single market rules and competitiveness.
- EU action against the dominance of powerful corporations¹ and an end to trade deals like TTIP which allow corporate interests to compromise democracy.
- A social Europe, with stronger, not weaker, protection of our rights, enabling UK and other EU citizens to travel, study, work, live and retire in other EU member states.
- An EU that promotes equality and diversity.
- More ambitious EU environmental protection and climate action, for example to achieve 100% renewable energy by at least 2050.
- Stronger EU action on banking regulation and tax justice including an EU-wide financial transaction tax, tougher EU rules to close tax loopholes and tackle tax fraud and evasion.
- An EU that protects and fosters small-scale economic activity and local/regional distinctiveness.
- A Europe that is a greater force for good in the world, promoting peace, human rights and justice – internationally and within the EU.
- A citizens' Europe with greater democracy – voting at 16, more involvement of national parliaments, a stronger European Citizens' Initiative, and introduction of EU-wide referenda.
- A stronger, more effective European Parliament.

Five ways to strengthen the European Parliament

The European Parliament is elected by proportional representation across the whole EU and has a strong democratic mandate. It needs greater powers relative to the other EU institutions, including in these five areas:

- 1 the power to initiate legislation²
- 2 the power to amend and veto the Commission's work programme and to appoint, censure and dismiss individual Commissioners
- 3 the right for European Parliament committees to demand papers and testimony from the Council and the Commission
- 4 appointment and scrutiny powers over the European Central Bank
- 5 the right for the European Parliament to decide its own seat.³

- 1 Corporate influence should be tackled with a powerful legally-binding EU lobby register and EU measures to end the 'revolving door' between the private sector and public institutions.
- 2 Currently this is limited to the Commission.
- 3 Green MEPs have led calls to end the Parliament's rotation between Brussels and Strasbourg. The European Parliament has repeatedly called for a single seat, but is not empowered to enact this. The decision remains with the Member States via the European Council and requires all Member States to agree.

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WHY GREENS SAY YES TO EUROPE



In this globalised world – where multinational companies cross borders with ease – we need a cross-border organisation that gives us a powerful collective voice to advance the inter-related principles of environmental, economic and social justice. The EU has enormous potential to spread peace, freedom and security in and around Europe, as well as further afield. It's with this vision in mind that I'll be campaigning to stay in Europe.

CAROLINE LUCAS, Green MP for Brighton Pavilion



Without EU Renewable Energy targets the UK Government would not be held to account for our lack of progress on their vital role in decarbonising our energy supplies.

Cllr. ANDREW COOPER, Green councillor, Kirklees, West Yorkshire



Our membership of the EU broadens British students' horizons immeasurably. It gives us the freedom to live, work and study across Europe, allowing cultural exchange which enriches our universities and communities. Being part of the EU is vital to safeguarding our shared future – from fighting climate change to defending workers' rights against the interests of global corporations.

HANNAH CLARE and SOPHIE VAN DER HAM,
Co-chairs of the Young Greens



Get involved!

GREENS FOR EUROPE CAMPAIGN

greenparty.org.uk/greens-for-europe @GreensForEurope #GreenerIN

Sign the Green Party petition at: bit.ly/GreensForEuropePetition

ANOTHER EUROPE IS POSSIBLE – STAY IN EUROPE TO CHANGE EUROPE

anothereurope.org @Another_Europe #DontWalkAway

InFacts

A very useful resource from journalists making the fact-based case for Britain to remain in the EU.

InFacts.org @InFactsOrg

WHY GREENS SAY YES TO EUROPE

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*“Yes, but what has
the EU ever done for us?”*

ANIMAL WELFARE ANTI-RACISM
ARTS FUNDING BANKERS' BONUS CAP
BIRDS AND NATURE CONSERVATION CLIMATE ACTION
CLEANER AIR AND BEACHES CONSUMER STANDARDS
DATA PROTECTION ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
GENDER EQUALITY GLOBAL JUSTICE GREEN JOBS
HEALTH AND SAFETY HUMAN RIGHTS LGBT RIGHTS
LIVE, WORK, STUDY OR RETIRE ABROAD ORGANIC FOOD
PEACE REGULATE BIG BUSINESS RENEWABLE ENERGY
REDUCE WASTE REGIONAL FUNDING
RESTRICT PESTICIDES RIGHTS AT WORK
SAFER LORRIES SOLIDARITY
TAX JUSTICE ...



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