

MAKING TRACKS



POST REFERENDUM BRITAIN: THE FIGHT FOR ANIMALS

Photo: Farm animal welfare is protected by the EU

A small majority of the British public has voted to leave the European Union. A pro-foxhunting Prime Minister has stepped into power while a new pro-badger cull Environment Minister joins a Farming Minister who wants to scrap animal welfare protections. It is post-referendum Britain. We need to stand together for animal welfare now more than ever.

KEITH TAYLOR

Keith, the Green Party's Animals spokesperson, said: "It is time for animal lovers of any, every, and no political persuasion to come together and fight to uphold the protections the EU has delivered on animal welfare.

We cannot take these protections for granted, the new UK government is no friend to animals and could, depending on our future relationship with the EU, be free to scrap many, if not all, of these hard-won and vital protections."

MOLLY SCOTT CATO

Molly, a member of the European Parliament's Agriculture Committee, added: "The Government has already attempted to weaken EU welfare laws for farm animals prior to the referendum. We cannot let this Conservative government take Britain back to a time when millions of hens suffered in battery cages and pregnant pigs were confined to inhumanely narrow sow stalls."

JEAN LAMBERT

Jean concluded: "It was the EU that first recognised animals as sentient beings and ruled that full regard should be paid to animals' welfare. Thanks to this, EU animal protection laws are frequently stronger than those applied in other parts of the world. We will be fighting to maintain and strengthen these laws."



BADGER CULLS ARE 'BAD SCIENCE' TTIP THREAT TO ANIMAL WELFARE

Badgers and cattle never come into close contact according to a new study examining the transmission of Bovine Tuberculosis (TB). Most TB in cattle is, in fact, contracted from other cattle. The research indicates that the disease is passed on through contaminated pasture and dung, with potentially significant implications for farm practices such as slurry spreading. The UK's foremost experts believe that the cull is a 'monstrous' waste of time and money.

KEITH SAYS "This report exposes what we have known for some time: the government's bovine TB 'control' is nothing more than mass cruelty supported by bad science.

With many badgers suffering long, painful deaths, it is time to stop this tragic failed project and re-focus efforts on humane and evidence-based measures.

I will continue doing all I can to fight against these cruel culls in the UK and Europe."

We should not be misled into thinking that leaving the EU will keep our animal welfare standards safe from TTIP, Green MEPs are warning. As a member of the EU, the UK government has been a cheerleader for the controversial trade deal with the US. Outside the EU, the UK is likely to press ahead with aggressive trade deals and would not hesitate to sign-up to TTIP if it still can.

There is a clear danger that TTIP and similar deals will

weaken regulations that protect animal quality of life. In the name of encouraging trade, it would become harder to ban small cages for battery hens or reduce antibiotic use in the farming sector, for example. Most worryingly, in the US animal-testing is accepted for cosmetics and cleaning products.

JEAN SAYS "It is as important as ever to stop TTIP, and the EU-Canada deal CETA, for the sake of animals, the environment and democracy."



Keith joins Animal Welfare Party's Vanessa Hudson, and animal welfare campaigners at an EU Referendum event on Oxford Street.

During the EU referendum, some Leave campaigners promised that outside the European Union Britain would be free to ban live animal exports.

Following the referendum, some Leave advocates have fallen silent on the issue and it appears that their campaigns were, at best, cynical, and, at worst, exploitative. As Greens,

FIGHTING LIVE ANIMAL EXPORTS

we care deeply about the tens of thousands of animals exported annually from Britain for fattening and slaughter. We cautioned that leaving the EU was not the best way to achieve our goal of banning the trade outright.

Regardless of the outcome of our exit negotiations, Britain will still be restricted by trade rules which prevent the banning of live animal exports; either we remain bound by EU trade rules or we are bound by WTO trade rules.

We have a tough battle ahead,

but our priority now should be holding to account those Leave campaigners who rallied against live animal exports and encouraging them to stand firm with the Green Party as we fight against this barbaric trade. We need all the voices and allies we can find to press the importance of this issue upon a government that already refuses to insist on fundamental animal health checks on exported animals and has recently tried to weaken our livestock welfare laws.

THE FUTURE OF OUR COUNTRYSIDE

Green MEPs have serious concerns over the impacts of Brexit on farming and the countryside in the UK.

Nearly 300 green spaces in Britain receive extra protection from the EU for their rare species of birds, animals, bugs and plants.

Following the referendum, there is a real danger nature laws will be weakened or scrapped.

Before these protections came into force, nature sites in the UK were being lost at a rate of 15% a year. This declined to just 1% afterwards.

JEAN SAID "EU rules help keep

precious species as nature intended. The vote to leave the EU puts our wildlife at risk. Green MEPs, in any renegotiation, will fight to keep these vital protections in place in Britain and across Europe.

At the same time, the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), despite its flaws, has offered considerable benefits for British farmers, many of whom will go out of business without an alternative support system."

MEPs fear leaving the EU could result in a race to the bottom on farm animal welfare and environmental standards and are fighting



Animal welfare standards threatened by withdrawal from CAP.

for an alternative, greener, farming future.

MOLLY SAID "A withdrawal from CAP could be a real opportunity to introduce a genuine green farm support system. Such a system

would ensure the protection of habitats, high animal welfare standards, and a shift away from intensive farming towards more sustainable and animal-friendly practices."

MEPs have voted to put pressure on Japan to abolish whale hunting ahead of EU-Japan trade negotiations.

Despite a worldwide moratorium on commercial whaling, the International Whaling Commission has reported that over 20,000 whales have nonetheless

been hunted in Japan, allegedly under an exception for 'scientific research'.

The European Parliament concluded Japan was in breach of international law.

EU CALLS ON JAPAN TO STOP WHALING

KEITH COMMENTED: "I'm pleased the European Parliament has, yet again, signalled its commitment to stamping out so-called 'scientific whaling'.

Hunting threatens whale

populations around the world and causes severe, and unjustifiable, suffering to the individual animals.

Now is the time to be sending a clear message that there should be no trade deal without a pledge to stop whale hunting in Japan once and for all."

JEAN LAMBERT

London's Green voice in Europe

- www.jeanlambertmep.org.uk
- jeanlambert@greenmeps.org.uk
- Twitter: @GreenJeanMEP
- 020 7250 8416

KEITH TAYLOR

The South East's Green voice in Europe

- www.keithtaylormep.org.uk
- keithtaylor@greenmeps.org.uk
- Twitter: @GreenKeithMEP
- 020 7250 8415

MOLLY SCOTT CATO

The South West's Green voice in Europe

- www.mollymep.org.uk
- office@mollymep.org.uk
- Twitter: @MollyMEP
- 01392 410 624

