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## ***Make Europe Green: A Manifesto for a Sustainable Europe***

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***YOU DECIDE!***

***Europe can  
do better***



# *Make Europe Green*

“A Green vote is a serious vote for change – and a vote for an honest political force which is making a big difference and gaining ground right across Europe.”

**Eleanor Scott MSP**

“In 1999, UK voters made history by electing their first two Green MEPs. And what a difference it has made.

We have campaigned for a ban on GM food and crops in Europe and worked to promote organic farming as a healthy, sustainable farming system which benefits farmers, consumers and the environment. We have demanded legislation to ban hazardous chemicals which adversely affect humans and wildlife, and we have helped to pass a law establishing a ‘polluter pays’ principle across Europe. We have worked with the European Trade Unions to raise the profile of social inclusion and workers’ rights in the draft EU constitution. And we have only just begun!

These elections are held under proportional representation, giving Greens a real chance to win more seats across the UK. I would urge anyone who wants to see more progress on achieving healthy food, clean air and water, and social justice for all to vote Green on June 10 and elect Scotland’s first Green MEPs.”

**Caroline Lucas MEP**

“The Scottish Green Party has a vision of the European Union as a force for good. We want this not only here in Scotland, but also across Europe and around the world. In practice, this means Scottish consumers trusting the food they eat. It means decisive action to reduce climate change emissions, and it means fair trade with the rest of the world. This vision of an ecologically and socially just EU is achievable. On these pages are the policies which will realise our vision. If you share our vision, please help us achieve it: Vote Green on June 10.”

**Chas Booth, top of the Scottish list of Green Candidates**

The cover features the names of all 34 Green MEPs currently in the European Parliament.

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## **Greening Europe**

*“On 21 February this year, in Rome, the European Green Parties formed the first European-wide political party, not just to fight the European elections, but to give voice and support to the aspirations of many other European countries not yet in the Union. Human rights and environmental challenges transcend national boundaries, and if we and our environment are to survive and prosper, we must recognise this. The 33 MEPs currently in the European Parliament are leading the fight for equity, justice, and environmental sustainability. The time has come for Scottish Greens to join them.*

*The Scottish Green Party gained 10 per cent of the vote in Lothian Region in 1999. Under the new system a Green vote will not be a wasted vote. We need more Green MEPs – make sure at least one of them is from Scotland.”* **Robin Harper MSP**

A European Green Party has been formed to campaign across Europe for the 2004 European Parliament elections. As part of this campaign, we have produced a Common Manifesto, sections of which have been reproduced as “Green Quotes” at the end of each Scottish policy area. Across Europe, Greens are working to improve social and environmental benefits for all – working together and with other political parties. By electing Green MEPs on June 10, Scotland can play an active role in making Europe Green.

**More detailed information on all policies is available from**  
**[www.eurogreens.org](http://www.eurogreens.org)**

## ***An Economy for People and Planet***

The Scottish Green Party believes that the economic policies of the European Union should be focused on promoting development which ensures social and environmental benefits for all. The EU should encourage economic diversity and strong local economies, rather than a single market dominated by multinational corporations.

The inequalities and injustices caused by economic globalisation are the result of our political leaders choosing to act predominantly in the interests of big business. This is taking us in the wrong direction. Immense power has been handed over to the World Trade Organisation (WTO), making local markets and industries vulnerable to the power of global corporations – leading to job insecurity, factory closures and the destruction of local agriculture.

The EU pro-economic globalisation position has been largely determined by industry lobby groups, like the European Round Table of Industrialists – a powerful body representing Europe's multinational corporations, not its citizens. Meanwhile, the current EU Trade Commissioner is not accountable to the citizens of the EU. This must change.

In order to support communities and environments, Greens believe that goods and services should be produced more locally wherever possible. Greens want to see international trade justice, not policies which force developing countries to liberalise their economies.

We do not believe that a single European economy is possible or workable. The single European currency and, more importantly, the single European monetary policy which goes with it, are not in the interests of the diverse economies of Europe. The unelected and unaccountable European Central Bank, imposing a one-size-fits-all economic policy on a diverse continent, will increase regional disparities and unemployment across Europe. This will undermine efforts to strengthen local economies. A single borrowing rate, interest rate and currency cannot benefit areas in recession, areas in recovery and strong economies all at the same time.

With new countries joining the EU, the 'globalisation' approach to economic development will continue to undermine efforts to revitalise local economies and to secure much-needed improvements in social and environmental development. Green MEPs will work for an economic policy which puts people and the planet first.

Scottish Green MEPs will join other European Greens to:

- Bring multinationals to account through strict, legally-binding EU and global controls, by supporting a corporate accountability directive making directors accountable for the social and environmental impacts of their companies' operations.
- Make the EU a Fair-Trade Zone – so that trade with developing countries is based on decent pay and conditions and a fair price paid to producers – and work towards the creation of an Ethical Trade Commission to regulate a scheme of accreditation.
- Use economic investment to create environmentally and socially sustainable jobs – targeting green and appropriate labour-intensive industries such as energy, waste management, transport and food production.
- Measure European economic development in terms of quality – including quality of life, social and economic benefits to local communities, employment, and environmental protection.
- Introduce a tax (the Tobin Tax) on currency speculation – to fund measures to increase global equality, strengthen local economies and switch taxes away from sales taxes such as VAT, which hit everyone, to taxes on pollution such as fuels that cause carbon dioxide emissions.
- Improve targeting of EU 'structural' funds to strengthen local economies and to increase the benefit to those in need.
- Support threatened small-scale rural economies across Europe by reforming the Less Favoured Areas Support Schemes.
- Make the unaccountable European Central Bank (ECB) more democratically accountable through open reporting mechanisms, and give the European Parliament powers to veto appointments to the ECB.
- Continue to oppose the adoption of the Euro as the sole currency.

*“A strong Green presence in the European Union is the best guarantee for a European commitment on better governance of globalisation. Economic and trade rules must be put at the service of environmental and social objectives.”*

## ***Energy & Waste***

All people should have fair access to the energy they need to meet their basic requirements. However, we must minimise the negative environmental impacts of energy use and maximise employment in the green economy.

Our dependence on burning fossil fuels (coal, oil and gas) pollutes our environment, contributes to climate change and wastes valuable raw materials. Nuclear power saves little in climate emissions, costs the nation millions every year in subsidies, and leaves future generations with a legacy of nuclear waste.

We are now witnessing the effects of climate change, such as flooding and other extreme weather events, whilst we continue to deplete our oil and gas reserves. Since our economy is so heavily dependent on oil, it is all the more important to develop alternatives – and fast.

We can only balance energy production with energy use if we tackle the ever-increasing demand for energy. Which is why energy efficiency is a core tenet of Green energy policy.

Greens believe that a European strategy for energy should have reduced energy consumption and increased efficiency at its core, encompass all forms of renewable energy, and ensure a central place for public participation in energy policy development. The Scottish Green Party is the only party fully committed to an environmentally sustainable energy strategy, and to the rights of local communities in the implementation of energy policy.

Scotland's record on recycling is the worst in Europe. More than 90% of the waste we produce ends up in landfill sites, which are rapidly running out of space. Incineration contributes to pollution, poses a risk to our health and burns useful materials, like paper and plastics, which could be recycled many times. We must end our wasteful attitude to resources.

Greens recognise that this requires fundamental change, and a genuine commitment to reducing, re-using and recycling waste. A strategy of 'zero waste' must be at the heart of policy. Instead of managing an ever-increasing amount of waste, we must move towards minimising waste production. By designing products which can be easily repaired or reused, rather than just thrown away, we can turn what we now consider waste into a useful resource. The 'zero waste' approach will lead to many social benefits in terms of new jobs, opportunities for community-owned enterprise, contributing to sustainable local economies and delivering environmental justice to communities currently forced to put up with the negative effects of landfill and other harmful waste disposal facilities.

European Greens have already worked hard to strengthen EU legislation, including the Landfill Directive, Waste Incineration Directive, Electrical and Electronic Equipment Waste Directive and Packaging Directive, but more still needs to be done.

Scottish Green MEPs will join other European Greens to:

- Cut energy and resource consumption by improving public transport and investing in renewable energy and energy conservation.
- Improve energy efficiency of new buildings and existing housing stock, end fuel poverty and devise higher energy efficiency standards and labelling for electrical appliances.
- Shift freight transport from road and air to rail and water by replacing road subsidies with investment in public transport and canals, and introduce an EU-wide carbon levy and an excise duty on aviation fuel.
- Phase in renewables by promoting the integrated development of wind, solar, wave and tidal energy sources, and establish better mechanisms to scrutinise environmental impact assessments made on these technologies, aiming for a target of 25% of total energy consumption to come from renewables by 2020.
- Ensure that all environmental impact assessments include an energy audit for the construction and life-time use of the development.
- Phase out nuclear power and abolish the Euratom treaty for the expansion of nuclear power.
- Work towards more international consensus over how to manage oil and gas depletion.
- Support a 'zero waste' approach, which involves reducing by half the amount of waste that is dumped in landfill sites or incinerated every 5 years.
- Maximise opportunities for recycling and re-use and ensure that new incinerators are not used as a means to reduce levels of waste going to landfill.
- Support the implementation of the Electronic and Electrical Waste Directive, The Packaging Directive, the Batteries Directive and the Household Hazardous Waste Directives.

*"The EU is a leader in the battle to combat climate change – mainly due to Green pressure. This position has to be enhanced. We want Europe to implement a radical shift in energy and transport policy. Nuclear energy must be phased out. The future belongs to sun, wind, biomass, hydrological and other renewable energy sources. We ask for the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol through the establishment of a European Climate Stability Pact."*

## ***Transport***

The Scottish Green Party is committed to transport policies which encourage a healthy lifestyle and make it easier to get around, whilst also protecting the environment. Greens see transport considerations as central to planning, economic development and community regeneration. Transport policy must serve the needs of people and the environment. Green transport solutions minimise the use of resources and provide for the needs of everybody, regardless of their lifestyle or income.

Greens work for better public transport wherever they are elected, in the Scottish Parliament, England and Brussels. Government policies concentrate on road-building at the expense of public transport, which increases car use, congestion in cities and social exclusion. Communities facing hardship, the elderly, those in remote areas or those in poverty, are excluded from services and opportunities because of poor transport links or planning decisions which neglect their needs. More than a third of households across Scotland have no access to a car, yet children from lower income households in Scotland are more likely to be knocked down by cars. Even in households with a car, it is generally used exclusively by one member most of the day. 25% of car users would use their car less if there was better public transport. Most car users also use public transport on occasion, and almost all walk on occasion, yet transport policy is primarily based on the needs of car drivers.

2,000 deaths per annum are attributed to vehicle emissions. Transport accounts for more than 20% of Scotland's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, a figure which is rising. In addition, the lack of support for walking and cycling as methods of transport place an extra strain on the health of the nation. Children who walk to school have been shown to have better road safety awareness and less obesity.

The distance our food travels before it reaches supermarkets is continually increasing. Consumers should be encouraged to buy food which has been locally produced.

As with other industries, Greens call for European legislation to embrace the 'polluter pays' principle when regulating the freight industry.

Pollution from aviation fuel is predicted to become the largest single source of climate changing pollutants by 2020, yet there is no taxation on aviation fuel. To pre-empt this dangerous development, we will work towards ending 'hidden' subsidies for aviation fuel, except for lifeline island services.

Greens envisage a Europe which leads the world in providing imaginative and sustainable transport solutions and Scotland is well placed to demonstrate the advantages of this approach to European partners.

Scottish Green MEPs will join other European Greens to:

- Campaign to ensure that Member States abolish 'hidden' aviation fuel subsidies.
- Encourage local production and marketing in all trade negotiations and relations, both between member states and between EU and other international bodies aiming to reduce the health and environmental impacts of long distance transport of goods.
- Abolish intrusive and unnecessary regulations which lead to food and other goods being transported over long distances and introduce a charge on heavy goods vehicles so that they pay for the air pollution and road damage they cause.
- Provide support and encouragement to member states to ensure that they implement transport policies which not only meet but exceed Kyoto obligations.
- Ensure that European funding, either for regional development or social funding, takes account of the transport implications of the projects concerned and that they are carefully considered under a strategic environmental assessment.
- Ensure that regeneration funding for areas of poverty focuses on providing transport to meet the needs of excluded communities.
- Ensure that transport provisions meet the requirements of people with particular needs (for example children and their carers, disabled and elderly people) and give them equal priority in all aspects of transport provision.

*“Our transport system must be reformed to increase efficiency and reduce pollution. This is a pre-condition for climate stability and a necessity to prevent increasingly hot summers, extreme floods and their dramatic consequences.”*

## ***Fishing and the Marine Environment***

Fishing and fish production are vital parts of the economy in many remote and rural parts of the coastal fringes of the European Community. However, for years fish stocks have been declining for a variety of reasons, including larger fleets, new technology, pollution in the marine environment, as well as the lack of political will on the part of elected politicians to agree to, and enforce, the measures necessary for sustainable management.

Approaches to fishing policy must be based on the precautionary principle whilst strengthening fragile rural economies. If the environmental impact of fishing is reduced, fish stocks can be restored and maintained indefinitely. This will ensure that coastal communities reliant on the fishing industry thrive.

A stronger management regime for fisheries is needed to reconcile the conflicting demands of conservation of the coastal environment, coastal communities and the economy. Regulations must involve local communities and other users in resource management. However, they also need to be agreed on a multilateral basis by those states and local communities most involved, and be enforceable.

Fishing in European waters must not harm the structure, habitat, diversity or functioning of the ecosystem. A sustainable approach to fishing means harvesting from healthy stocks and preventing them from being depleted in the first place. We must aim for strong fish stock recovery plans followed by sustainable harvesting. Scotland's fisheries could be many more times as profitable as they are now if stocks recovered. Fisheries management must include an assessment of the impact of fishing on other species and the marine habitat.

Priority should be given to fishing methods which provide the greatest employment and maintain the traditions of local communities, but which do not lead to over-exploitation of stocks. This means preference should, in general, be given to small-scale vessels rather than industrialised fleets. Methods shown to be damaging, such as non-selective fishing gear and discarding by-catch, should be phased out and replaced by less destructive techniques.

Atlantic salmon farming is having a devastating effect on the in-shore coastal environment of the west coast of Scotland. In its current state, this industry is not sustainable since chemical and biological pollution of relatively enclosed ecosystems is destroying local habitats and leading to the extinction of wild salmon populations. The feed, derived from unsustainable industrial fishing, can be contaminated with organochlorides, such as PCBs and dioxin, so proper investigation of feed-stocks and toxicological testing of farmed salmon is essential.

Scottish Green MEPs will join other European Greens to:

- Introduce marine conservation measures such as establishing marine conservation areas, including seabird feeding grounds and the spawning and nursery grounds of commercial fish species, to operate as outlined in the European Integrated Coastal Zone Management Recommendation.
- Reduce the size of the fishing fleet to an environmentally sustainable level, giving priority to maintaining those vessels which provide the most employment per quantity of fish caught, use the most selective fishing gear and do the least damage to the environment. The current EU subsidy for the construction of new fishing vessels is incompatible with a simultaneous demand to decommission vessels and must be stopped.
- Stop discards and illegal fishing, by reducing the capacity of fleets and using more selective fishing methods.
- Ensure that relevant regulations are respected and that enforcement and penalties are equitable among all fishing nations in shared waters. Fish landings must be monitored and vessel movements tracked.
- Reformulate the EU fisheries policy for distant water fisheries so that they do not lead to over-exploitation of local fish stocks or have adverse impacts on the development of local fisheries.
- Protect the salmon farming industry and the environment by moving to low intensity, environmentally sustainable practice with tight regulation and monitoring.
- Continue the radical overhaul of the discredited Common Fisheries Policy, adding support for local control of fishing zones, especially inshore, to enable the recovery of perilously low fish stocks, protect our fragile marine ecosystems and ensure a sustainable future for both the environment and the fishing community.
- Ensure that fishing communities are supported in diversifying their local economies.
- Ensure that Member States comply with all environmental regulation in the marine environment – especially the designation of Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation, and the strategic and project environmental assessment of industrial developments at sea.

*“European Greens will ban all unsustainable and environmentally damaging fishing practices.”*

## ***Food and Agriculture***

Some of the biggest impacts of the European Union have been brought about by the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), an expensive and negative failure. CAP has subsidised over-production, with the bulk of payments going to monoculture and large agribusiness, and agriculture now accounts for 25% of Scotland's greenhouse gas emissions. Furthermore, the CAP seriously undermines agriculture in developing countries by providing huge export subsidies to European crops which get dumped on poor countries, making it impossible for local farmers to compete.

Reform of the CAP has been slow and is impeded by vested interests; it is high time for the CAP to be completely transformed. Greens are demanding investment in organic farming, strengthening of local food markets and measures to increase biodiversity in our countryside.

Greens continue to oppose genetic modification (GM), which has been shown by the British government's own research to harm wildlife. GM also threatens the natural environment as genetic material can cross to closely-related wild plants and soil microbes. GM gives a few global corporations even greater power by tying farmers into the purchase of specific seeds, herbicides and pesticides.

The global transport of food is one of the fastest growing sources of greenhouse gas emissions. Further trade liberalisation will increase food transport worldwide and extend the absurd practice of the same countries importing and exporting the same product at the same time. Greens want to maximise the local processing of food, thereby creating jobs and minimising food miles.

Pesticide residues, antibiotics and food additives pose an unacceptable threat to human health. Action is needed at EU level to reduce excessive salt, sugar and other additives in food production and processing.

Our Green vision is that European agriculture should become environmentally sustainable, protect the natural resources of soil and water, maintain high animal welfare standards and be GM-free.

Our vision will provide employment in rural areas and contribute to a diverse rural economy, and will protect and enhance wildlife and habitats. It will also restore and maintain a landscape aesthetically pleasing for both local people and visitors.

Scottish Green MEPs will join other European Greens to:

- Continue to reform the CAP to end subsidies for food production, and to pay for environmental and social benefits.
- Support the creation of EU-wide targets to increase organic production, including support and advice for organic farmers and development of ecologically sustainable growing methods.
- Continue to oppose GM, working towards a total ban on GM crops throughout the European Union and introduce legislation to make GM producers liable for contamination of non-GM crops and for any future harm to the environment or human health.
- Reform CAP based export subsidies which cause “food dumping” in the developing world – to the detriment of local communities and their environment.
- Support clearer food labelling which clearly states the welfare standards involved in production and the food miles, ingredients and health implications of the product.
- Protect animals by phasing out factory farming, cutting the distances which live animals can be transported and by supporting more rural abattoirs.
- Introduce environmental taxes to improve the competitiveness of local food producers, reduce food miles and support investment in rural development, including farmers’ markets and community supported agriculture.
- Modify global trade rules to prioritise fair trade over free trade and to benefit local markets. EU policy will be changed to allow local authorities and other bodies to set local food procurement targets.
- Reduce support to agriculture which pollutes and set strict limits on emissions from agriculture.

*“One of our priorities is safe, healthy and tasty food for everyone. We will continue to seek and support radical reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), with a strong reorientation towards organic farming, regional food products and rural development.”*

## ***Safeguarding our Natural Environment***

A healthy environment, free from pollution is essential for human health and for the health and survival of all other life with which we share the planet. Greens believe that protecting and enhancing diversity of life on the planet is an important obligation for governments and multi-national organisations, as well as individuals. Preventing the decline of the health of the planet is one of the biggest challenges facing humankind.

Europe must face up to particular responsibilities in this area and accept that the past behaviour of many member states has taken a profound toll on biodiversity across the Earth. If everyone in the world consumed and polluted like the affluent Europe, we would need to find two more planets! We must acknowledge that our policies in relation to aid and development, as well as the promotion and licensing of products such as pesticides and herbicides, genetically modified crops and trees, and hazardous chemicals, have a significant impact on the biodiversity of this and other countries.

Within the European Union's own borders there is a particular need to provide economic and regulatory support to member states in protecting endangered species and restoring and enhancing biodiversity within their countries. In all nations development must go hand in hand with protecting areas of scientific interest or natural importance. A concerted and integrated approach to conserving marine ecosystems is also needed.

Most human activities, from farming to tourism, have an impact on biodiversity. It is therefore important that European policies are monitored to ensure that the impact upon our environment is minimised and contained, and where possible remediated. This will require major changes. In some cases we simply need more effective enforcement of existing controls. In others it will require new legislation. Stringent environmental impact assessment is essential for any commercial enterprise where any aspect of the environment is considered to be at risk.

Protecting and restoring biodiversity and reducing the problems associated with invasive non-native species requires co-operative international action, as borders provide little control over the spread of animal and plant life. If ecosystems are to be effectively protected, it will require the vigilance of the European Union, member states, industry and others.

By securing a diverse future for Europe we can defend the rights of future generations to enjoy the richness of life on earth.

Scottish Green MEPs will join other European Greens to:

- Overhaul legislation relating to the trade in endangered species to ensure that this practice cannot take advantage of varying regulations between member states.
- Implement an EU-wide ban on genetically modified crops, trees and fish, which can contaminate native species and natural habitats, as well as threatening bird, insect and human health.
- Tighten EU legislation on the use of herbicides and pesticides which threaten human health as well as biodiversity.
- Create a Biodiversity Audit to ensure that all policies of the Commission and actions of the Parliament and other European bodies do not have a detrimental effect on regional or endangered species.
- Create Marine National Parks to prevent, for example, the destruction of unique cold water corals in the north east Atlantic.
- Introduce an urgent and total ban on single hull tankers within European waters and limit unsupervised shipping in sensitive waters such as the Minch.
- Create legislation to ensure that in all proven cases of pollution, of whatever type, it is the polluter who must pay for the damage and the clear up.
- Ensure that industries audit and publish their use of toxic chemicals and establish binding timetables to reduce such use, and enforce implementation of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.
- Strengthen European Chemicals Regulation (REACH) and support the proposed ban on toxic chemicals, such as phthalates in children's toys.
- Insist upon full compliance with the Convention on Biological Diversity and with European conservation measures, including the Birds, Habitats, Water Framework and Environmental Impact Directives, monitor implementation of the Landscape Convention, and ensure progress on designating and safeguarding Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Specially Protected Areas (SPAs).

*“European Greens will safeguard the diverse landscapes of Europe and protect the biodiversity of its flora and fauna.”*

## ***Workers' Rights***

The Scottish Green Party believes we can achieve a society which is sustainable environmentally, socially and economically – a society where people live balanced healthy lives, contributing to their families, communities and workplaces. It also requires a commitment to the principle of environmental justice, which can be understood as no more than a fair share of the planet's resources, no less than a decent environment for all. Economic policy must be directed to ensuring that the needs of all are met and not to maximising the forms of wealth which can be measured in monetary terms alone.

Much of EU policy-making has been driven by a neo-liberal agenda, including the 'locking in' of privatisation in public services, and the pressure placed on developing countries to open up markets to multinational companies. The EU's 'liberalisation requests' have extensively targeted poorer countries, and undermined successful non-market-based services.

A number of misguided economic policies have had harsh social effects across Europe. In trying to meet the economic criteria for Monetary Union, many EU governments have imposed heavy cuts in public spending and social provision. Increasingly, they are looking to privatisation as a way of raising income or off-setting investment, but this is threatening working conditions as well as environmental health and safety standards.

Successive UK governments have acted to undermine EU legislation, which aims to protect the rights of workers both to equal treatment and to work-life balance. The UK's opt-out on the Working Time Directive has perpetuated the UK's 'long hours' culture, damaging workers' ability to contribute as parents, volunteers and members of the community. The UK government's minimal implementation of the Employment Framework Directive on equality has missed an opportunity to provide full protection against discrimination on the grounds of religion, sexual orientation and age.

Scottish Green MEPs will join other European Greens to:

- Ensure the right to form and join free trade unions without restriction and to be protected from exploitation in the workplace.
- Require greater consultation of workers regarding potential redundancies, production methods and the disposal of subsidiary companies.
- Ensure that employers provide greater support for parents, including greater childcare provision, more flexible working practices and the right to work from home where possible.
- Replace the compulsory retirement age with provisions to allow older people to reduce their working hours to fit their individual needs.
- Ensure economic policies are grounded in democratic control and the interests of communities by promoting small-scale community-based or worker-owned enterprises as building blocks of local economies.
- Support and improve legislation to make it an offence to harass or discriminate, directly or indirectly, against people at work on grounds of race, sex, family status or responsibilities, disability, sexual orientation, religious belief, age, political opinion or physical appearance.
- Encourage the formation of links between those communities and trade unions which are directly affected by a multinational company or its subsidiaries.
- Support intergovernmental action and legislation by the EU to introduce workplace democracy and to ensure that workers' health is not damaged by hazards in the workplace.

*“A major focus of Green politics is on social inclusion and the efficient provision of basic public services for all. Green social and employment policies include active efforts to further the interests of women; gender mainstreaming is part of all our policies. Greens believe that people with disabilities have the right to participate and contribute to society.”*

## ***Human Rights and Equality***

The Scottish Green Party believes in the intrinsic worth of human beings, and affirms the human rights of every person, as well as the rights of children.

The EU has been the catalyst for many improvements in human rights over the years, particularly on issues of equality and equal treatment. However, these rights are often incomplete or only partially enacted at UK and Scottish levels. In addition, the human rights of some groups are now being eroded, often in the name of security.

In recent years, the human rights of migrants have been under assault in Scotland and across the EU. Migrants come to the UK and Scotland from outside and within the EU for a huge range of reasons. The economy of Scotland, particularly in sectors such as agriculture and health, depends significantly on migrant labour. At the moment, migrant workers are often outside the legal structures of employment and open to exploitation and trafficking. We are in urgent need of new ways to protect migrant workers and to manage migration.

Greens fully support the right of those fleeing persecution to asylum in this country according to the 1951 UN Convention on the Status of Refugees. Both Scotland and the UK are more than capable of offering sanctuary to those who need it. We believe that the current system criminalises those fleeing persecution, throws them into the hands of people-smugglers, and allows them to be stigmatised as illegal immigrants.

The contribution which refugees and asylum seekers make to this country must be recognised, whilst highlighting the need for ongoing campaigns for the international policies which would reduce the need for asylum.

We recognise that the ongoing environmental degradation of the planet – especially the loss of fertile lands, increasing water and energy shortages and the impact of climate change – will lead to ever larger numbers of environmental refugees. The richer countries of the world have a responsibility both to tackle the causes of these problems and to help those displaced by environmental change.

Scottish Green MEPs will join other European Greens to:

- Work towards the introduction of a Directive which will extend protection against discrimination on the grounds of religion, age, language, sexual orientation and disability to the provision of goods and services.
- Extend qualified majority voting to all EU efforts to tackle discrimination.
- Campaign for an EU constitution which incorporates the Charter of Fundamental Rights and the values of democracy, equality, solidarity and equal opportunities.
- Further the implementation of the Council of Europe Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and ensure Gaelic's status as an official language of Scotland.
- Support legislation affirming the rights of children, as set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Introduce a wider legal right to have an asylum claim considered and end the practice whereby asylum seekers are subject to detention without reason beyond the fact that they are seeking asylum.
- Campaign for the European Union to become a signatory to the Council of Europe Convention on Human Rights, play a greater role in strengthening and reforming the United Nations Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR), and use its position at the Geneva UNCHR sessions more effectively, to ensure that the UN acts on the concerns of human rights organisations.

*“In our vision of a tolerant and open Europe there is no room for the intolerance of extreme right wing forces and undemocratic nationalistic or violent religious movements. All citizens – independent of gender, colour, disabilities, sexual orientation, religion, language, origin or culture – must have equal civil and political rights. The EU has an important role to play in combating cross-border crime. However, increasing justice and police co-operation should not be at the expense of civil rights.”*

## ***Participation and Democracy***

The Scottish Green Party strongly supports decentralised government and the strengthening of local and meaningful democracy. Government should be carried out at the most local and effective tier possible. The principle of subsidiarity should be rigorously applied. There are, of course, many areas of strategic policy where decisive action in the EU is essential, but in virtually all areas of life, whether on the environment or in education and health, decisions should also be taken at a local, regional or national level. The challenge is to make Europe encourage local democracy as well as national and global accountability.

It is essential that all bodies carrying out government functions should be directly accountable to their constituents. Greens want a very different kind of European Union; one where people who are affected by decisions are directly involved in making them.

The European Union as it currently stands undermines the principle of democratic accountability. While progress has been made towards empowering the European Parliament, too much power still lies with the Commission and the European Central Bank.

The new constitutional Treaty must make the EU more accountable, transparent and democratic and bring it closer to its citizens. Greens support key elements in the draft, such as participative democracy and the right to petition, the appeals procedure, the protocols on subsidiarity and proportionality, more transparency in the Council, increased powers for the European Parliament through the extension of co-decision making, increased powers for national Parliaments, which must in turn respect the principle of subsidiarity, and the replacement of all the Treaties with a single, consolidated text which is simpler and more accessible.

As Scotland becomes more independent it has an increasing role to play in demonstrating a new model of democracy which gives power to our citizens and communities. The setting-up of a Scottish Parliament is still of great interest to the new democracies in Eastern Europe, its key principles of power sharing, participation, accountability and equal opportunities for all provide a benchmark under which the work of the Parliament is assessed. With 7 Green MSPs we are in a good position to help demonstrate the benefits of devolution.

Scottish Green MEPs will join other European Greens to:

- Work for a European constitution based on the principles of subsidiarity and democratic accountability, and argue for any constitution to be ratified by referendum.
- Prevent the EU system of common public procurement damaging local economies and ensure that local government bodies and health authorities are free to invite tenders only from local companies where appropriate, for example, to ensure that food is locally sourced.
- Introduce a Freedom of Information act to apply to all deliberations and actions of European Union bodies, and ensure that the EU fully implements the Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Freedom of Information and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters.

*“The new constitutional treaty must make the EU more accountable, transparent and democratic and bring it closer to its citizens. Our position is that the European Constitution should be ratified by referendum. For Greens, democratisation of Europe means increased subsidiarity, with decentralized powers given to regions and cities, more participatory democracy – including through referenda.”*

## ***International Justice, Peace and Security***

We live in a world of ever increasing insecurity and conflict. Many of these conflicts result from economic inequalities and greed, ethnic tensions and scarcity of resources, such as land, water and oil. Scarcity is likely to increase as populations grow and exploitation of the natural environment accelerates.

EU treaties provide a framework for foreign policy and military cooperation (the Common Foreign & Security Policy). The EU has a Department of Foreign Affairs, but it is not accountable to the people of Europe. Peaceful external relations should be of paramount concern for all countries in Europe.

Greens offer an alternative vision to that of war and destruction waged by the current UK and US governments. We have worked with and promoted organisations making a positive difference in trouble spots, such as the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and the International Peace Corps, which is working to heal wounds in the Middle East. It is only through working in a spirit of co-operation and solidarity that the intractable problems of such war-torn areas will be solved.

The EU has, however, failed miserably to redress the imbalance of wealth between its members and the developing world. More often Europe's self-interest is given primacy, with discriminatory tariff barriers which force developing countries to produce raw materials or cash crops, while leaving the vast majority of their people poorer than before.

Meanwhile the international debt burden, which some governments have made tokenistic gestures towards resolving, continues to drag the world's poor down. For every pound we give to the developing world in aid, we still collect two pounds in debt repayments. The poor of the world are subsidising us.

Scottish Green MEPs will join other European Greens to:

- Campaign for member states to leave NATO and seek its dissolution.
- Encourage the promotion of a European Peace Corps to resolve conflicts within states as well as between states, and be involved in mediation prior to conflict as well as building up capacity in communities to deal with the outcomes of a post-conflict settlement.
- Disarm all of Scotland's weapons of mass destruction, and demand the immediate disarmament of all nuclear, chemical and biological weapons throughout the world.
- Bring an end to the government-supported arms trade and work to strengthen controls on global arms sales.
- Increase international aid budgets to at least the UN-agreed target of 0.7% of GDP and ensure that future development aid goes to sustainable, community-led projects, in particular those which target the primary needs of women and children.
- Abolish the debts of poorer countries and bring pressure on other member states, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank to write off the debt of the poorest countries without imposing unfavourable conditions, such as trade liberalisation and investment deregulation.
- Support a corporate accountability directive to make directors properly liable for the social and environmental impacts of their companies.
- Campaign against international economic treaties and agreements, such as the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS), which put the interests of rich countries and multinational companies before the interests of communities and the environment and which further extends unfair trade rules into the delivery of services, such as water, health and education.

*“Greens believe that Europe should undertake conflict prevention, not launch pre-emptive strikes. The Greens in Europe are in favour of multilateralism and disarmament. We strongly believe that Europe must always act in the spirit of peace. Greens will encourage the formation of a European Peace Corps that should be involved in conflict prevention.”*

