

For a Just and Welcoming Scotland

**The Scottish Green Party
European Manifesto 2014**



SUMMARY

This manifesto sets out a vision for a revitalised Scotland in a reformed and reforming European Union.

- A Europe where Scotland leads by example in rejecting weapons of mass destruction and outdated military alliances in favour of leadership in peace-keeping and peace-making.
- A welcoming Scotland where the free movement of people is celebrated as an asset to our economy and enriching for our culture.
- A nuclear-free Europe which harnesses the complementary renewable energies of the continent: the wind and tides of the north and the sun in the south.
- A Europe where public investment is seen as a force for good, both in our own communities and globally; where the priority is to tackle corporate tax avoidance and evasion, not punishing the poor for a crisis they did not create.
- A Scotland where core public services – from the post we receive to the railways on which we travel – lie in public hands.
- A co-operative Europe where shared protection for land, seas and animals leads to higher standards and improved conditions; and where there's action, not words, on climate change.
- An exemplar Europe which exercises its diplomatic and trade muscle, not on behalf of corporations, but in support of human rights, indigenous people, impoverished nations and expanding the reach of equalities protections.
- A Europe where protection of workers' rights and pensions is seen as the mainstay of a thriving economy.
- A more democratic Europe, driven by elected institutions and reasserting the principle of handing power to the most local level.

It builds on a strong track record of Green MEPs in Europe, stretching back to the early 1980s and, in the UK, to the first election of Green MEPs in 1999.

These MEPs have pioneered limits on bankers' bonuses, championed action on climate change, stood up for rights of minority groups – and acted as a force for progress.

It's time Scotland had its own Green MEP: to stand up for Scotland's interests in an increasingly interconnected world.

This manifesto sets out the priorities which that Scottish Green MEP will follow.

INTRODUCTION

In 2014 Scotland faces some of the most important choices in its history. The independence referendum offers a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to change the future of our country. And the European election offers a significant opportunity to change the future of our continent and our world. Scottish Greens stand for a just and welcoming Scotland. A Scotland which takes its place as an equal among European nations; which works for peace and plays a responsible role in the world; and which entrusts power to the people.

For most people, the economic crisis is far from over. Wages have fallen and jobs are less secure than ever. Food costs, house prices and energy bills have gone up. Young people are locked out of decent homes and locked into unemployment. For the first time in a generation, there are families in Scotland being forced to suffer the pangs of hunger.

Yet, at the same time, corporate profits are growing – at our expense. The richest have been allowed to dodge vast quantities of tax. Bail-outs handed billions to the banks, but did nothing to stop them from gambling away the wealth of our nation.

The Scottish Greens stand for a different kind of politics and a different kind of Europe: where power is handed down to local level, but countries work together for flourishing public services and for decent conditions and wages for ordinary people. Where people from other countries who choose to live and work here and enhance our society are welcomed. And where we play a responsible role in other parts of the world caught up in conflict.

Scottish people could be the architects of a better nation.

As Europe militarises, a future can be built based around peace. We have the opportunity to free Scotland of weapons of mass destruction. We can stop billions being wasted on Trident replacement. Scotland can say “no” to the NATO nuclear coalition; and instead play a part in peace-building around the world.

As migrants are scapegoated for all of society’s ills, Scottish Greens are not afraid to tell the truth: it wasn’t migrants who caused the economic collapse. We all gain a huge amount from the people who move to Scotland. Scottish Greens are proud to welcome newcomers to our country.

As European policy seeks to embark on a new round of privatisations, handing power over public services to remote corporations, we argue for public services – like health, railways and postal services – to be held in public hands and for community control over assets like energy to be the norm.

Across Europe, we have seen social movements grow from the ashes of broken economies. In city squares and in public meetings, in workplaces and on the streets, across our continent, new ideas are stirring. Workers are organising for their rights. Citizens are standing up to power. New futures are being planned. The EU should stand with those

people, our people. It should be a beacon of democracy. It should be the means through which the people of Europe work together to build a better future, together.

This is the Europe Scottish Greens will work to build.

1: A JUST ECONOMY

1.1 The real economy

The EU has an economy of global significance. It should lead by example, supporting the industries and activities which make a fairer, more sustainable economy and harness financial services as the servants of that economy.

Among many things, that means our MEP will:

- Argue for increased funding for EU regional development funds and push the UK government to devolve spending decisions to the level of government most local to the country or region being funded.
- Seek EU-wide banking reform which supports local industries and economies; and regulation of pension funds to support productive investment rather than high risk financial speculation which puts pensions at risk.
- Promote employee-led, co-operative ventures and social enterprises while protecting workers' rights throughout the economy.
- Make sure that human rights, sustainability and local production are embodied in trade deals and public procurement at the start.
- Seek to revamp the way the EU supports member states to measure economic progress by replacing reliance on GDP with a richer mix of indicators on wellbeing.

1.2 Fair tax and public spending

The Scottish Green Party supports a fairer tax system, in which the wealthiest contribute more and there is an end to the scandal of a trillion Euros lost each year through tax-dodging.

That is why we oppose blanket public sector cuts. We do not see why librarians and care-workers should pay for a collapse caused by a reckless banking system. We do not see why EU member states should see communities and hard-won social protection wrecked by the European Central Bank and remote bureaucrats.

By rejecting austerity cuts and by tax reform – in Scotland and across Europe – governments can support the industries of the future and recognise the vital contribution made by public services to people's welfare.

Our MEP will:

- Oppose blanket austerity measures being imposed on EU member states, with cuts, deregulation and privatisation which are destroying communities across Europe.

- Take action on tax evasion and avoidance through: abolition of tax havens in dependencies or territories of EU countries; closing of tax loopholes through international agreement; greater cross-border co-operation on tax evasion and fraud; and clearer country by country accounting for corporations.
- Protect low income households by arguing for the phasing out of European VAT and replace it with a mandatory minimum corporation tax.
- Make tax work for the climate by: replacing the Climate Change Levy with an EU-wide carbon tax which closes loopholes for energy-intensive companies; and ending public fossil fuel subsidies such as the exemption on duty for aviation fuel.

1.3 Banking reform

The banking system which failed so spectacularly in 2008 has not been fixed, sowing the seeds of future economic turmoil. The EU has a central role to play in developing a banking sector which invests in real productivity and investment in local manufacturing and the real economy. The EU, which has been so involved in the bailing out of many of these banks, has a key role to play.

Our MEP will:

- Argue for reforms which break up mega-banks and separate retail and investment banking.
- Support an international financial transactions tax (so-called “Robin Hood Tax”) to divert finance into productive investment and with the flexibility to deal with predatory attacks on weaker economies.
- Push the EU and member states to support regional, co-operative and municipal banks and credit unions which lend to co-operatives, social enterprises, small and medium sized companies, and clean industry.
- Continue to campaign for strict limits on bankers’ bonuses.
- Seek tighter regulation of and stricter enforcement on: financial products targeted on consumers; and new financial instruments which increase speculation.
- Argue for termination of trade deals which increase banks’ global rather than regional focus.
- Push for better regulation of pension funds so that they are invested in the productive economy rather than highly volatile financial markets which destabilise the global economy and risk people’s retirement savings.

GREEN MSPs have put forward proposals to transform publicly-owned bank RBS into a series of local banks, serving local and regional markets – and as an exemplar for more widespread banking reform to ensure that banks are no longer “too big to fail”

1.4 Currency

This manifesto is set against the backdrop of the referendum on Scottish independence in which the Scottish Greens are campaigning for a “yes” vote. We recognise the current Scottish Government’s right to argue for a sterling currency union, especially as a transitional measure, but, over time, we believe that conditions placed on it would limit Scotland’s options. That is why the Scottish Green Party supports a Scottish currency. This gives most economic flexibility and control. It will help us to create the new industries needed for a sustainable future.

That is why we do not support and have never supported membership of the Euro. We believe that monetary policy must be sensitive to local economic needs and changes should be set locally, rather than at a continental level. The future of the Euro is a matter for members of the Eurozone.

We also do not believe that new member states of the EU, or newly independent member states of the EU, should 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.

1.5 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. Much of the debt owed by the world’s poorest countries is owed to companies and countries in the EU. Too often, 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, and why; and therefore whether repayment is just.

Likewise, the debts owed by some European governments are not entirely clear or accountable. Those who bear 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 shifts wealth from the productive economy to the financial sector.

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. That is why Scottish Greens will continue to work for debt justice, in Europe and globally, and we will continue to stand with movements in Greece, Spain and across Europe fighting against unjust debt settlements.

Our MEP will push for:

- A “rapporteur” for creditor and debt audits, supporting member states to set up debt audits in order to establish the conditions of the debt; the main beneficiaries and therefore the extent and grounds for repayment.
- An audit of sovereign debts owed to EU institutions such as the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the European Investment Bank.

- An EU 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.
- The EU to work globally to establish an independent framework for cancelling illegitimate and unsustainable debt, with a fair and transparent global debt workout mechanism.
- The creation of stronger environmental, social and human rights guidelines for responsible lending and credit guarantees from export credit agencies and EU institutions.

2: PUBLIC SERVICES

Greens believe that core public services should be in public control.

We believe that privatisation dogma has contributed to Europe's economic difficulties in recent years. Yet this dogma prevails as those who benefit most from it gain more wealth and so more power.

While privatisation has been driven by our UK Governments – whether Labour, Conservative or Liberal Democrat – the EU has a key role to play.

Our MEP will:

- Defend our public services, including health and education, from moves towards privatisation in international trade deals.
- Oppose EU competition laws which make it harder to place public services in public hands and which require the tendering of services to the private sector.
- Introduce EU measures to prevent any European country being forced to sell off public assets and services.
- Oppose the European Commission's promotion of privatisation and the so-called free market.

2.1 Transport

Where the EU supports transport funding – such as pan-European transport projects – this transport should be affordable, low-carbon, healthy, and, in the case of public transport, publicly owned.

Our MEP will push the EU to:

- Promote public ownership of railways and ensure that EU-wide or international trade deals do not make it more difficult to bring railways into public ownership.
- Prioritise disabled access, walking and cycling in all transport infrastructure plans.
- Continue to invest in improving rail transport and port infrastructure across Europe.
- Introduce more rigorous regulations on the fuel efficiency of vehicles and on road safety.
- End fossil-fuel subsidies for air transport.
- Ensure that EU rules do not push farmers into turning food-crop areas over to producing fuel for vehicles as long as anyone on earth is going hungry.

2.2 Postal services

Our MEP will work to prevent further privatisation of the Royal Mail. We will seek to bring the privatised portion of Royal Mail back into public hands. We will protect the UK's universal service obligation and will seek to extend it across Europe, ensuring that everyone has access to mail and parcel services. As online shopping becomes more significant we will end discrimination against those living in remote communities in parcel delivery, by ensuring that delivery is provided at a single cost, and, where possible, uniform delivery criteria. We will protect the Post Office as a lifeline service for communities across Scotland. Access to public services directly through Post Offices is vital for many and must be retained.

2.3 Health and social care

Health and social care are largely the responsibility of member states and, within the UK, of devolved government.

The Scottish Greens have always resolutely defended the NHS as a public service and we will continue to do that. Many of our policies seek to promote better health in its widest sense, so easing the pressure on the service itself – for example: better air and food quality, active travel, fuel poverty action and community empowerment – all have significant impacts on health and wellbeing. Getting those things right means more to invest in the healthcare and, equally importantly, the social care of people who need it.

Our MEP will:

- Fight to ensure the NHS in Scotland remains in public ownership and expose EU/US trade deals which encourage privatisation of health-care and other services.
- Promote free movement of people across the EU so that the NHS continues to draw on the widest pool of talent and expertise for the benefit of patients.
- Stand up to the tobacco industry and support moves to discourage smoking.
- Support the right of all to healthcare, irrespective of where they are from; or what age they are.
- Continue to push for better labelling of food and other products which may impact on health.
- Work for better enforcement of directives on air quality.

In April a government public health report highlighted the annual toll of over 2,000 deaths in Scotland as a result of air pollution, to say nothing of the lives blighted by poor health from the same source

3: A WELCOMING SCOTLAND

Immigration is a touchstone issue in this election, fuelled by politicians looking for defenceless scapegoats and cheered on by lurid headlines bearing no resemblance to reality.

Scotland gains a huge amount from the people who move here. New Scots contribute to our economy and enrich our culture. Without them, our public services would be far weaker. Without them, we would struggle to pay our pensions and without them, our lives would be poorer. They are our neighbours and our friends. And wherever a self-serving politician seeks to blame the movement of people for the damage wrought by our failing economic system, the Scottish Greens stand shoulder to shoulder with those who choose to come here.

Moreover, huge numbers of people born in Scotland have themselves taken advantage of the rules allowing the free movement of people within Europe. Thousands have moved to each member country of the EU. So we believe in treating new arrivals here in the way in which we would expect to be treated if we moved abroad.

Our MEP will:

- Speak out at every turn on the toxic rhetoric used by too many politicians which turns people against our neighbours.
- Support the free movement of people across the EU and defend the right of citizens to a family life, irrespective of wealth or income.
- 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.
- Support moves to protect those who have been trafficked into Europe, rather than victimising them further.
- Oppose the detention of migrants; and continue to push for better co-ordination of resettlement of refugees and forced migrants.
- Improve border agency work to better respect the human rights and basic safety of those seeking to arrive in Europe whether by land or sea.
- Push for the expansion in international law of the definition of refugee status to include those forced to move because of devastation to their home environment.

In March a poll for Scottish Green MSPs showed two-thirds of people in Scotland want Holyrood to have control over immigration policy. Green MSP Alison Johnstone, a member of Holyrood's economy committee, argued that the survey highlighted the opportunity for Scotland to develop a welcoming immigration policy that attracts skilled workers for new industries – in contrast to the negative approach at Westminster driven by fears of losing votes to extreme right wing parties

4: PEACE AND SECURITY

Scotland can lead by example in making the world a safer place, and promoting peace. By removing nuclear weapons from the Clyde and refusing Scottish support for illegal overseas wars we can make an immediate difference to the world. But there is much more that can be done.

4.1 Defence

Scottish Greens believe in a new international role for Scotland in the world, where we extend our role in peace-keeping and help ordinary people caught up in war; disband the Cold War relic NATO and say no to illegal wars and military aggression.

A Scottish Green MEP offers the chance to play a new, more responsible role in our relationships with the rest of the world. In a few months the independence referendum provides the biggest-ever opportunity to remove Trident from our waters and strengthen the hand of those in the rest of the UK and across the globe who are working for disarmament. Scottish Greens support a constitutional ban on weapons of mass destruction and we oppose membership of the NATO nuclear alliance.

Scottish Greens believe that the real threats to human security and wellbeing in the 21st century relate to land, food, water, and energy security; and to climate and global injustice, not the defence of borders between friendly nations. We will argue for a Scotland that puts these priorities ahead of massive military spending.

While Scottish Greens believe that foreign policy ought to be determined by national governments, not the EU, we recognise that the EU does have a significant role in foreign policy, and, as it stands, in defence policy. Green MEPs have consistently worked to make Europe a force for peace and justice in the world and will continue to do so.

Our MEP will:

- Support the creation of a European Peace Corps to allow for civilian peace-building and disaster response efforts at times of crisis.
- Seek to ban weapons of mass destruction; landmines and cluster bombs from the EU.
- End the ongoing militarisation of the EU as utterly at odds with the founding principles of economic, social and environmental co-operation.
- End any EU funding for research for military purposes while continuing to seek increased funding for the EU's Instrument for Stability and Peace
- Establish a European Peace Institute in Scotland, 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.

4.2 Building a just, sustainable world

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

Our Scottish Green MEP will push the EU to:

- Ensure public procurement enhances human rights and social justice in other countries.
- Support movements of indigenous peoples seeking justice for past wrongs whether from colonial times or other forms of oppression.
- Support civil society movements for equality and democracy in states close to EU borders.
- Build stronger links with the African Union and with Latin America.
- Take action to ensure a just settlement in the Middle East, including sanctions on and disinvestment in Israel.

4.3 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. The Scottish Green Party recognises the merits of proper and accountable international co-operation by national police forces against 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 authorities.

Our MEP 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; and that its operatives are 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 co-operation between the national and EU Parliaments, laid down in statute, with judicial control provided through the Court of Justice of the EU and national courts as appropriate.
- There is rigorous legislation to protect any data held by Europol.
- There is proper monitoring and accountability of Europol's engagement with black and ethnic minority communities.
- There is collaboration between member state customs' services so as to effectively track and seize goods made by child and forced labour.

5: SCOTLAND IN EUROPE

The Scottish Greens believe that Scotland should be an independent country within the European Union.

Our vision for Scotland is one where we take control of the policy areas which allow us to deliver the fairer, greener, more welcoming country which is our only future – policies like transport, energy, welfare and taxation. With a Scottish currency, an elected head of state, freedom from the NATO nuclear alliance and an economy built on clean, green technology. And within the framework of co-operation and stability which a reformed and reforming EU can bring.

If and when Scotland votes for independence we will push for the right of Scotland to join the European Union, as a continuing member, immediately upon independence, ensuring a continuity of residence, administration arrangements and international relations for Scotland.

And if the people of Scotland choose to vote Yes this September they will be able to decide, in the first election to an independent Parliament, whether to vote for parties offering a referendum on withdrawal from the EU. The Scottish Green Party would support our continued EU membership.

5.1 Governance and transparency

The European Union is vital because some issues are best resolved at a continental level. Solidarity between neighbours is essential 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.

But whilst supporting the principle of the EU, we will work for radical changes to the way in which it operates. 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.

Our MEP will:

- Support a mandatory register of lobbyists for all areas of the EU.
- Ensure better access to information on EU expenditure.
- Ensure that a parliamentary watchdog is set up to monitor and seek transparency in negotiations on 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.

5.2 Institutions and democracy

Through institutional reform Greens will work for a more democratic European Union. Where policies ought to be devolved to more local levels – such as monetary policy and foreign policy – we will say so. But where it is appropriate that the EU holds a power, we will work for that power to be used in a way which is accountable to the people of Europe, and in the interests of the many, not the few.

Our MEP will:

- Support 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.
- Back increased power for the European Parliament to create legislation and to monitor and force transparency in the activities of the Council of Ministers and the Commission.
- Support limiting the powers of the European Commission so that it acts as the civil service for the EU – drafting legislation and budgets for approval; and the overseeing of their implementation, accountable to Parliament and member states.
- Seek to ensure that the Council of Ministers makes decisions by qualified majority voting to ensure that the increasing diversity of the EU is recognised.
- Support 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.

Our top European candidate Maggie Chapman chairs the Petitions Committee of City of Edinburgh Council, allowing citizens to highlight issues which otherwise get ignored

On areas such as workers' rights, environmental and animal protection, Scottish Greens are deeply sympathetic to the European Commission's efforts to ensure that countries are compliant with these laws. So the current situation, where policy is often passed but not enforced, is deeply frustrating.

Our MEP will push the EU to:

- Improve the quality of the legislation process to ensure that legislation is formed by consensus, where possible and that legislation is clear and unambiguous.
- Reverse a growing trend of centralising decision-making and re-assert the principle that decisions should be taken at the most local level possible.
- End the rotation between Brussels and Strasbourg parliaments.

- Lower the voting age in European elections to 16.
- Continue to support the Citizens' Initiative which allows EU citizens to set the agenda through public petitions; and make efforts to facilitate its wider use through better promotion.

6: WORK AND SOCIAL SECURITY

6.1 Decent pensions for all – now and in the future

The Scottish Green Party supports an increase in the basic state pension and the phasing in of a citizens' income, payable to all. We are one of the richest countries in human history so no pensioner should live in poverty.

Our MEP 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 age. If people want to work, they should be permitted to, with increasing flexibility, 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 the years ahead and therefore are a risk to long-term investments like pensions.
- A limit on the volatility of pension fund capital flows and stricter regulation of pension funds to minimise risk to pensioners.

6.2 Decent jobs for all

Unemployment and unstable employment are too high in Scotland and across Europe. They destroy communities, families and lives. Too often, politicians are quick to blame unemployed people for their situation. But Scottish Greens recognise that widespread unemployment is the result of failures in economic policy.

So too with unstable employment. More people now believe they will lose their job than at any point since records began. This belief leads to stress and to an unwillingness to negotiate pay rises and better conditions – with a downward spiral for whole sectors of the economy.

That is why we support public-led spending, long-term investment in the industries of the future to provide lasting work, and the introduction of a citizens' income in the long term to ensure income stability in people's lives. That is also why it is important to create stable, fulfilling jobs, particularly jobs for young people.

Our MEP will:

- Support EU funding for the Youth Employment Initiative and Youth Guarantee jobs schemes across Europe, to ensure that every young person is offered access to a job or further training within four months of leaving permanent education.

- Push for expansion of the EU social fund so that it can further support work tackling youth unemployment; and for a permanent Youth Unemployment Task Force, sharing best practice across Europe and monitoring changes in the structure of the labour market across Europe.

6.3 Standing up for workers' rights

One critical role of the European Union has been to harmonise workers' rights across Europe. This is vital to ensure that workers' rights and conditions do not become part of a race to the bottom, where each country scrambles to appear more "competitive" for foreign capital.

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

Our MEP will:

- Encourage worker ownership and co-operatives by promoting employee-owned companies and delivering a European social investment fund to help them do so.
- Encourage new, democratic models of corporate ownership, such as co-operatives and social enterprise, through public procurement; and push for legislation for worker participation in the boards of corporations.
- Support legislation to allow workers to ballot for industrial action on whatever grounds they see fit.
- Provide information and support for small businesses to help them recognise a trade union.
- Crack down on blacklisting and any discrimination against workers for unionising.
- Legislate to guarantee a specific right to join a trade union, to have an independent union as chosen by employees recognised in that workplace, to be represented by that union, and not to be discriminated against as a result of membership.
- Seek to ensure all statutory employment rights which are granted to 'employees' must be extended to all 'workers', such as agency staff.
- Argue to end opt outs within the EU working time directive.
- Seek to ensure more stable employment by improving EU rules on contracted hours and overtime.

6.4 Fair pay and fair workplaces

We believe that the workplaces which prosper are those where workers feel well-rewarded, well-treated and where all those engaged in the work are seen to gain proportionately from the work which is done.

We will argue for an EU-wide minimum wage, based on each country's circumstances, to prevent a race to the bottom in wages. And equally, we will push the EU to agree Europe-wide maximum pay ratios for any one company.

Our MEP will:

- Seek to better enforce directives requiring that women receive equal pay for work equal to that done by men, irrespective of age; and secure legal changes to make it easier for women to take equal pay cases.
- Expand the total provision for parental leave to 24 months, shared between parents.
- Push for statutory time off for education, public service, voluntary work and caring responsibilities.
- Oppose contracts used in exploitative ways, such as zero-hours contracts.

7: TRADE

The exchange of products and services across Europe and the world can enrich all of our lives. But free trade too often means freeing the powerful to exploit the vulnerable, either within the EU or globally.

7.1 Democratic trade

Too often the EU exploits countries in the Global South by forcing 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. The current EU/US trade deal, the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), threatens 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 and food 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.

So Scottish 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.

Our MEP will:

- 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.
- Argue that only national parliaments and the European parliament, rather than the Commission, can initiate trade deals.
- Improve transparency in trade deals through involving civil society, trade unions and NGOs; and ensuring that a human rights and sustainability assessment is carried out before the agreement is signed and ratified.
- Campaign for a global trade system based on solidarity where elected governments should be able to regulate imports, exports and investments; push for trade systems 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 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.
- Push for fairer distribution of incomes along global supply chains and mandatory reporting by large companies of their global supply chains and of specific data relating to their environmental and social impact.
- Seek to amend EU treaties to allow and encourage capital controls to ensure that huge corporations cannot use capital flows to drive down standards.
- 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 labour standards in the production of their goods; and that trade unions are allowed to organise in their work places.
- 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 the mergers & acquisitions functions.
- Campaign for the EU to use its powers, as a trade bloc, to restrict the arms trade.

7.2 Using procurement for good

Scottish public bodies spend billions of pounds a year buying goods and services. This spending – and its capacity to drive positive change in the economy – is regulated by the EU. The role of the EU should be facilitating procurement for good, not mandating what public bodies can buy.

Our MEP will push:

- To change European public procurement rules to allow and encourage a broader range of socially desirable factors to be considered rather than simply up-front cost, including support for local producers.
- For decisions about public procurement to be made locally by the public body procuring.
- For the EU to support the use of procurement to drive global economic and environmental justice.

7.3 Consumer rights

EU regulations protect us when we buy goods and services.

Our MEP 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.

8: FOOD, FARMING AND THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Greens are unique among political parties in that the health of our environment pervades everything we say. So, for example, the way trade is conducted, procurement is handled; and how our banking systems are run – have profound consequences for the land we live on and the air and water we rely on; and just as much for the more just, welcoming society we want.

8.1 Flourishing eco-systems

Climate change, global pollution and loss of biodiversity are putting our basic eco-systems at risk. Bee colonies are in collapse. Some Scottish seabird species have reduced dramatically in number, as have the number of farmland birds in Britain. The Scottish wildcat is on the verge of extinction. For more than a century we have been wiping out the wildlife in our country at an astonishing rate. Globally, WWF estimate that at least 10,000 species go extinct every year. This is a crisis.

Green MEPs have long fought for policies to protect and expand the habitats crucial to our wild species, and will continue to do so.

In particular, our MEP will push the EU to:

- Strengthen protection of habitats through the Habitats Directive.
- Reform the Common Agriculture Policy to promote flourishing ecosystems.
- Strengthen international wildlife law and ensure that it is implemented.
- Work for stronger international protection of endangered sea creatures, and an end to any killing of whales in European waters.
- Protect wild plants by introducing a European Wild Plants directive which would require clear labelling and regulation of all living wild plant material traded within Europe.

8.2 Natural resources

Despite much progress, too much of the natural resource we extract or grow is still sent 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.

Our MEP will push the EU to:

- Limit industrial processes which generate toxic or hazardous wastes; and set a target for hazardous waste production to be eliminated by 2020.
- Ban surface, sea and river dumping of waste from manufacturing or primary industry processes, to be replaced with on-site waste recycling and disposal facilities.

- Work towards a dramatic reduction of EU reliance on other countries for natural resources and instead support a reduction in consumption of natural resources, within a zero waste strategy and circular waste management systems.
- 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.

8.3 Energy and climate change

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. The Scottish Green Party has led the way in policies to protect the climate and argued for decades that we need to build a low carbon, renewably powered economy.

Today, the renewables revolution, scoffed at two decades ago, is happening all across Europe – often because of direct policies of Green parties. But Scottish Greens have always recognised that we can't meet the challenge of climate change by merely adding some wind turbines to our current economy. The way the economy works, the way trade works, set out in earlier sections, is as important to climate change as the specific policies set out here.

Our MEP will:

- Show leadership in mitigating climate change, by pushing for the EU to match Scotland's greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets with reductions of at least 42%, without offsetting, by 2020.
- Work for the EU to be the driving force for action in global negotiations on climate change.
- Push the EU to use current bilateral talks with other major states 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 any further extraction of 'extreme fuels' within the EU, including shale gas, coalbed methane and coal gasification, whether or not fracking is involved; and deep sea drilling for oil.
- 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.

As part of its "Commonweal" programme the Jimmy Reid Foundation has published proposals to harness the vast potential of Scotland's renewable energy through community and public ownership. The report, "Repossessing the Future" was launched at the Scottish Green Party conference in October 2013

- Support the global sharing of intellectual property for technologies which help reduce carbon emissions.

Supplying sufficient affordable clean energy is one of the key challenges facing Europe and the world, and the EU must be a driving force in meeting this challenge.

Our MEP will:

- Oppose EU state aid rules which prevent direct government support for renewable energy.
- Support EU-wide infrastructure for renewable energy, such as a European supergrid to share electricity capacity across states and maximize the potential of renewable generation: solar farms in southern Europe, and offshore wind in northern Europe.
- Oppose the development of nuclear power stations, and continue to call for the Euratom treaty to be revised to regulate the safety of what nuclear power there is, rather than promoting the expansion of nuclear power.
- Continue to fight to ensure that the common market and trade deals do not prevent public or community ownership of our currently failing privatised energy system.
- Push for European funds to be steered towards energy efficiency and research into renewable energy.

8.4 Food and farming

Our food system is broken. Food prices are rising fast, yet farmers are being squeezed as hard as ever. Hunger is driving Scottish people to food banks, and supermarkets have been caught selling horse meat as beef. Globally, we have seen food riots and starvation whilst more of us than ever suffer from obesity.

Farmers, greengrocers and butchers understand what we eat. But these are not the people who control our food supply chains any more. The food we are sold is chosen by remote companies with more experience of cutting corners than cutting a joint of meat. It's a banker, not the local baker, who sets the price of a loaf of bread. It is supermarket profits which dictate what a dairy farmer gets paid, not the cost of producing a pint of milk from a healthy cow.

Farming is a key part of the Scottish economy. Scottish Greens want to increase support for small scale farming and farming co-operatives, and reduce support for agribusiness and supermarkets.

In particular, our MEP will push the EU to:

- Respect 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.

- Redirect Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) spending from large farms to small farms by limiting the number of acres for which subsidy can be given; at the same time using CAP payments to encourage the production of food with high nutritional, environmental and animal welfare standards; or allowing land to “re-wild” if that is what is most appropriate.
- Become more self-sufficient in products that can be produced in Europe; and direct public procurement of food (such as schools and hospitals) to buy much more local produce.
- Keep GM crops out of Europe.
- Strengthen and enforce EU competition laws to ensure that giant supermarket chains do not run effective monopolies or cartels in local markets.
- Seek better labelling of all products sold in Europe, including an “animal free” label, so that people know what they are buying.
- Promote organic produce to consumers and support organic markets as key to local economies and jobs

Green MEPs have taken a stand against industrial animal farming – as a highly inefficient way to produce food which damages the environment, creates pollution, overuses water, reduces food security and treats animals as machines, not living things. Scottish Greens are completely opposed to factory farming and will:

- Push for policies which support extensive, pasture based systems over the excessive use of cereal as feed.
- Encourage integration of crop and livestock production.
- End the routine preventative use of antibiotics that is threatening the effectiveness of these vital drugs.
- Introduce high standards of animal welfare

8.5 Protecting the sea

Fishing is a vital industry for Scotland. Our MEP will work to restore our oceans to their former abundance. The future of our fishing communities, and the future of numerous marine species, depends upon it.

Our MEP will push the EU to:

- Ensure the Common Fisheries Policy sees protecting marine eco-systems as its primary aim.
- Ensure that, outside its home waters, the European fleet does not fish to standards that would be unacceptable within the EU, and does not impinge on the rights of local people.

- Demand an EU-wide ban on discards at sea.
- Create a network across European and global waters of marine protection areas.
- Push for more intensive controls to prevent pollution and parasites spreading from fish farms.

8.6 Animal welfare

Greens have a proven track record of action on animal welfare in Europe and are the leading voice in Europe for the protection of animals.

Scottish Greens strongly support the introduction of an animal welfare framework law, covering all types of animals – whether pets, strays or wild animals – which will demonstrate that the EU is serious about animal protection.

We also demand that animal welfare be made a consideration in all trade agreements.

In addition to our commitments in farming (above), our MEP will push for:

- Legal standards to be adopted to protect the welfare of farm animals.
- Improved food labelling and better traceability of our food to prevent further incidents like the horse meat scandal.
- A ban on live export of animals for fattening or slaughter abroad as part of much tougher regulations on live animal transportation.
- A ban on the cloning of farm animals for food and the sale of clones and their offspring.

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

Our MEP will push for:

- A ban on the import of wild caught animals.
- Tight restrictions on the species which can be imported and traded.
- A fully funded action plan to tackle wildlife trafficking.

Increasingly companion animals are being traded across country borders, yet companion animal welfare is regulated at national level. We will push for European law on the breeding and sale of cats and dogs, with mandatory licensing of breeders and control on breeding which is likely to cause suffering.

Greens do not believe that animals should be used in any sport that causes pain and suffering. Green MEPs will continue their work pushing for EU subsidies to be removed from bullfighting.

9: AN EQUAL SCOTLAND; AN EQUAL EUROPE

A world with finite resources cannot rely on constant unfettered growth to distribute such resources as there are. This is why equality is one of the five core Scottish Green Party principles. Green MEPs have led the way on equality issues in Europe, and a Scottish Green MEP would join the ongoing battle for equality.

9.1 Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT+) Rights

The Scottish Greens have always been firmly committed to equal rights. We were the first party in Scotland to support marriage equality, and our MSPs have worked hard to fight for rights for same sex couples.

Progress, however, is patchy across Europe with advances in some states sitting alongside growing instances of intolerance and hatred in others.

The EU should be the global champion of equality for LGBT+, fighting the criminalisation and punishment of LGBT+ people across the globe and forming a consistent demand in trade discussions or diplomatic relations.

Our MEP will:

- Work for a comprehensive EU action plan to champion equality; and the adoption of an internal human rights strategy, with the setting up of a watchdog to hold member states to account for human rights violations against LGBT+ people.
- Seek to complete EU anti-discrimination legislation and its effective implementation through continued EU financial programmes to make equality a reality.
- Combat homophobic and transphobic violence: mobilising EU agencies to work against all forms of bias-motivated violence and bullying.
- Promote an inclusive definition of family in all EU competencies, such as freedom of movement and promote respect and recognition of LGBT+ families.
- Tackle discrimination and inequalities in health by requiring EU institutions and member states to effectively address barriers to the effective enjoyment of the right to health for LGBT+ people through existing EU policies and programmes.
- Ensure that LGBT+ people seeking asylum because of persecution can qualify for asylum on that ground and ensure that Scotland leads on implementing that provision.

In 2014 Green MEPs won cross-party backing for a new EU 'roadmap' on eliminating all discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. With intolerance on the rise across the EU, Greens called for an EU-wide action plan based on all Member States adopting a coherent approach – with the European Commission empowered to take concrete follow-up measures against countries that do not comply.

- Seek to make EU membership conditional upon granting rights for LGBT+ citizens.
- Be a leading voice on transgender rights, in calling for an end to unreasonable barriers to gender recognition, and actively champion the EU in continuing to lead on depathologisation of transgender identities.

9.2 Rights for black and ethnic minority Europeans

Racism is still worryingly rife across Europe. We see it most explicitly in the words and actions of extremist parties like the BNP, Golden Dawn and the Front National. This hard racism must be confronted and fought off, and Greens will stand up to fascism wherever we find it.

But there is a racism which is more subtle and pervasive and is bound up with our history and culture and lies deep within our institutions. This too must be countered.

Our MEP will:

- Challenge toxic anti-migrant rhetoric, which perpetuates racist attitudes.
- Continue to oppose EU funding for 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.
- Ensure better enforcement of the EU racial equality directive for which Green MEPs fought hard in the first place
- Support the rights of minority cultures, and oppose and speak out against oppression on the grounds of religion or belief.

9.3 Gender equality in the EU

The Scottish Green Party is proud of our feminist principles. In these elections we are the only party with a woman at the top of our party list.

Our MEP 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.
- Expand parental leave and split it more evenly between parents.
- Work to recognise the importance of unpaid labour, such as care and housework, which is much more often done by women, through an unconditional citizens' income.
- Continue to show leadership by speaking out against sexism in the media and culture.
- Support moves to ensure that at least half of the people making up EU institutions, including the Parliament and Commission, are women.
- Support ongoing work by the EU to end violence against women.
- Support legislation ensuring that women have significant representation on company boards.

9.4 Equality for disabled people

Greens supported the European Disability strategy of 2010-2020 and the EU's signing of the UN convention on the rights of disabled people. But international commitments mean little to disabled people in Scotland being hit hard by the UK Government's austerity programme. Greens have been consistent voices against cuts to the benefits and services that disabled people need, both directly and, in the case of the bedroom tax, indirectly.

9.5 Opposing ageism

Both young and old people often suffer discrimination because of their age, and both have been hit in specific ways by austerity programmes in the UK and across the EU. Our Scottish Green MEP will oppose discrimination against anyone because of their age and support the European Charter on the rights and responsibilities of older people.

10: EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

10.1 Expanding the bounds of human knowledge

The EU has a key role in supporting research: in funding infrastructure and in facilitating academic collaborations. Advancing our understanding of the world is vital to meeting global challenges like climate change and HIV/AIDS. But the Scottish Green Party also believes in the intrinsic value of advancing human knowledge. We support research not just because of its potential to help us, but also because we believe that the advancement and dissemination of knowledge is one of the things that makes us human, that gives us meaning in the world and which defines us as a civilisation.

Our MEP will push the EU to increase funding for European Research Infrastructure and support collaborations with other countries around the world in delivering vital research infrastructure.

Within this framework, cross continental and international collaboration are key, and our Scottish Green MEP will push for an increase in research funding from the EU, while challenging the creeping privatisation of research, in which large corporations are permitted to shape the sum of human knowledge as academic departments become more dependent on them.

10.2 Access to education

In most of Northern Europe, higher education is fully or near-fully funded by the state. In Scotland we are proud of our continuing commitment to charge no tuition fees and we will contest any attempts, whether at UK or EU level, to breach that principle.

Our MEP will:

- Support continued work to ensure European qualifications are recognised equally across Europe.
- Resist attempts to turn universities into factories for employees rather than the powerhouses of democratic intellect.
- Support programmes which encourage students to study abroad during their degrees.

In 2013, an active trade unionist in Scotland and a holocaust survivor from Belgium were together awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics after a remarkable discovery at a Swiss research institute. In the 1960s theoretical work by Peter Higgs and François Englert made predictions, including the Higgs particle, which help to make sense of the universe. These were proved experimentally in 2013 by the CERN in Switzerland in a collaborative venture. This also demonstrated something else. Research has no borders. Discovery is a human endeavour

10.3 Intellectual property

In an information economy, intellectual property is ever more important. With the rise of corporate power, more human knowledge is owned by 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, this 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.

Scottish Greens seek a different approach. As far as possible, knowledge should be a common treasury, available for all to use to advance humanity. We support a step-change increase in the public funding of research and in return, we expect the subsequent discoveries to be easily available to the public.

Our MEP will:

- Push the EU to require that all EU-funded research and all research carried out by EU bodies is published in open access journals and encourage member states to introduce a similar policy.
- Push the EU to require that technology resulting from any EU-funded research is not allowed to be patented by private companies.
- Support the development of patent pools with free access for all, and other mechanisms to help countries to freely share the products of our research.
- Encourage the use of Open Source software by all EU institutions and member state governments and place Open Source Software on an equal competitive footing with proprietary software, requiring the use of open standards for information produced by or for public entities and granting the public free and unrestricted access to all government-funded endeavours.
- Push for a new global framework for intellectual property rights.

10.4 Digital rights

The revelations resulting from Edward Snowden's decision to blow the whistle on the surveillance of people across the world shocked Europe. Green MEPs have safeguarded the right of all citizens to privacy. Yet too often, the European Union has been complicit in handing information relating to

In April Green MSP Patrick Harvie launched "Digital Rights Are Civil Rights", highlighting the extent of government agencies' surveillance and on the back of a poll for the Scottish Greens showing public concern about the recording abilities of modern gadgets. In a poll of over 1,000 Scots over 70 per cent said there should be restrictions on people using gadgets for recording in public where others don't know they are being recorded. This also follows Green MEP proposals to ensure that Internet access cannot just be provided by established telecommunications firms - and that the 'content' users receive must be genuinely open; not just restricted to those services chosen by ISPs. Subsequently, the European Parliament backed a series of Green amendments to proposed rules on electronic communications to ensure 'net neutrality'.]

ordinary citizens to those who ought to have no business with it. Too many MEPs have sided with governments against citizens.

Our MEP will continue to fight creeping surveillance and will:

- Support the implementation of data protection legislation at the EU level.
- Push 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.

The Scottish Green Party is Scotland's Green Party, founded in 1978, and part of a global movement for social, economic and environmental justice.



Scottish Green Party, Bonnington Mill, 72 Newhaven Road, Edinburgh, EH6 5QG

www.scottishgreens.org.uk

office@scottishgreens.org.uk

[@scotgp](https://twitter.com/scotgp)

www.facebook.com/ScottishGreens

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