

A Green Thought on Europe

A special edition of Green Thought from the Winchester Green Party



Greens have a Vision for Europe

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

The EU is also about solidarity and collective action. It provides the opportunity to look beyond narrowly-defined national interests, to work for progress on issues of common concern, which cannot be dealt with as effectively by countries acting alone. We believe that the UK's place is within a political family of democratic nations that is the European Union.

There are many reasons why the EU is important – for defending our rights and freedoms, for challenging the power of multinational corporations (which countries are ill-equipped to do individually) and, crucially, for taking collective action to protect the planet.

We know the EU is far from perfect. We want change at EU level: more powers to the European Parliament in relation to the other EU institutions, primacy given to social and environmental standards, and stronger regulation of transnational big business, including the banks.

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

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



Meet Your Green MEP in Winchester Sunday 19th June

Join Green MEP, Keith Taylor, and the Winchester Greens on Winchester High Street on Sunday 19th June.

This is your opportunity to ask Keith any questions about Europe, a possible Brexit and any other concerns or queries you may have.

Find out more about:

- The Greens in the European Parliament
- The work Keith does for us in the South East
- The Green campaign for a better Europe



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

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

Keith Taylor Green MEP for South East

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"The EU has enormous potential to spread peace, freedom and security in and around Europe, as well as further afield. It's with this vision in mind that I'll be campaigning to stay in Europe."

Caroline Lucas, Green MP for Brighton Pavilion

Make the right decision on June 23rd 2016

"Yes, but what has the EU ever done for us?"

Animal Welfare Anti-Racism Arts Funding Bankers' Bonus Cap Birds and Nature Conservation Climate Action Cleaner Air and Beaches Consumer Standards Data Protection Environmental Protection Gender Equality Global Justice Green Jobs Health and Safety Human Rights LGBT Rights Live, Work, Study or Retire Abroad Organic Food Peace Regulate Big Business Renewable Energy Reduce Waste Regional Funding Restrict Pesticides Rights at Work Safer Lorries Solidarity Tax Justice

"The EU referendum is the biggest political decision in a generation. And it's people like you – not politicians on podiums – who matter the most."

Amelia Womack, Green Party Deputy Leader

The Green Vision for the EU

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

The opportunity to make this vision real is only possible if we remain in the EU.

¹ Corporate interest should be tackled with a powerful legally binding EU register and EU measures to end the 'revolving door' between the private sector and public institutions.