



**Green Party**   
***Real Progress***





# From our MEPs

## A Message from **Jean Lambert** Green MEP for London

The EU needs the Greens. Hard-won gains such as the commitment to sustainable development and conflict prevention are at risk if the Greens aren't there to push policy in that direction. It was teamwork between Green MEPs and environment ministers that kept the Kyoto Protocol alive. Greens have been the most effective opponents of GMOs and the strongest advocates of organic farming. We have supported civil liberties and human rights when others have sought to erode them, whether in the EU or elsewhere in the world, such as Chechnya. It is the Greens who expose the tensions between free market policies and environmental and social needs. UK Green MEPs are at the forefront of this.

To challenge and change the EU, we need more Greens in the European Parliament. Your vote can help get them there. Electing Greens makes your voice louder.

## A Message from **Caroline Lucas** Green MEP for South East England

Being elected as one of Britain's first Green MEPs has been a wonderful opportunity to raise the profile of the Green Party and green politics in the UK and, working with colleagues, to act as a catalyst for vitally needed change within the EU – for peace, justice, and equality. The past five years have been immensely rewarding. I believe that our work is having a real impact, particularly on issues of globalisation, local food chains and sustainability.

There is a vacuum in British politics today. I aim to promote the Green Party as a credible and articulate voice in British political life, based on its radical vision. As the grey parties squabble over the centre ground, the opportunities for the Greens are greater than ever.

The task of challenging poverty, injustice, and environmental degradation has never been so urgent. Getting more Green MEPs elected is a major way to build on the work we have started, to take our distinctive message to as many people as possible, encouraging them to join us, and together achieve Real Progress.

# Real Progress: The future is Green

*This manifesto puts forward a distinctive radical message that is based on our core principles of ecological sustainability and economic justice.*

**In 1999, the British people elected two Green Party members of the European Parliament. In 2000, London returned three Green members of the London Assembly. In 2003, Scotland returned seven Green members of the Scottish Parliament. Greens in other countries have ministers of state and members of national parliaments.**

With each election, Greens progress. Green parliamentarians deal with the pragmatic day-to-day world of European politics whilst retaining the vision that inspired our founders 30 years ago.

We need a political system that allows us all to become fully engaged in the decisions that affect us all. Our opponents say that globalisation is inevitable, corporate power unstoppable, environmental protection too expensive, genetically modified food unavoidable, and so on. Greens challenge this. We can either go on as before, supporting policies that threaten our very existence, or we can embrace a new kind of politics, a real alternative to the greedy consumerism that allows the minority to survive and grow rich at the expense of the majority.

We believe in Europe. But we don't believe in a European super-state. We want a Europe where decisions are made by elected parliamentarians and not behind closed doors. We want transparency and accountability. We want a Europe that believes people know and understand their local communities and are best placed to make decisions that affect their daily lives. We believe in a Europe that is culturally, ethnically and economically diverse, where rights are protected for all and discrimination, poverty and inequality are consigned to

history. We want a social Europe, one that protects workers, public services and minorities. We want a commonsense Europe, one that works for the interests of all.

Some decisions are best made at a European level. We applaud the environmental, judicial and safety legislation that has come out of Europe. We want a Europe that sets decent minimum standards on matters of concern, whilst allowing individual states the freedom to set higher social, environmental and animal protection standards without fear of being prosecuted for failing to expose their economies to so-called 'free market' competition.

We want a Europe that puts people before the profits and interests of big business, one that takes its responsibility to the poorer nations seriously – both within Europe and globally. We want a Europe where justice and sustainability underpin every aspect of political decision-making.

Voting Green means helping to elect politicians who care about present-day needs as well as our future. It means giving Greens a stronger voice in Europe to protect your environment. It means helping to ensure that your children and grandchildren are brought up in a world in harmony with nature, rather than one that squanders resources meant for the next generation and disrupts nature's capacity to sustain life. Green politics demands that we side with the oppressed, not the oppressors.

**Above all, Green politics is about Real Progress.**

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**Give Greens a strong voice in Europe**

**Vote Green on 10 June**





# Environment

## Protecting our future

*Environmental protection and sustainable development should be at the heart of everything the European Union does. We have one earth, which we share with other creatures. We see the continued destruction of species and habitats, the spread of deserts, toxic chemicals in the environment, pollution in our air, rivers and seas, climate change spiralling out of control. We should protect our common home and stop this massive experiment with our future, the outcome of which could have the gravest consequences for us all.*

The aim of EU environmental standards should be to stop the destruction of the ecosystems on which we depend. Too many of these standards have already been watered down in practice by governments under pressure from powerful industrial lobbies. The EU must put public safety before potential commercial gain.

Environmental considerations are incorporated into all sections of this manifesto. The environment is not an add-on extra. It is the basis of all our policies – to ensure ecological, social and economic justice for all.

*We endorse the programme of Europe's eight largest environmental organisations – the Green 8 – in their Manifesto for the European Elections.*

### Tackling climate change

Climate change is potentially the most serious environmental challenge facing humankind. Yet the political and corporate response to this problem has been grossly inadequate. For short-term gain, politicians are jeopardising the welfare, indeed the survival, of large numbers of people. The EU

recognised the devastating effects of climate change as long ago as the 1980s.

Increased temperatures will lead to increased evaporation rates from the oceans, heavier and more frequent rainfall inland, with accompanying increases in local flooding. This is already happening in the UK. The elevated energy of the climate system will give rise to a higher incidence of extreme weather events such as storms, while the rise in global temperature will be enough to begin to melt the polar ice caps and thereby raise sea level, leading to coastal flooding and land loss. The World Health Organisation has warned that global warming could lead to a major increase in insect-borne diseases in Britain, including malaria and encephalitis.

The Kyoto Protocol, the international treaty on climate change, must be supported by all nations. Green MEPs will work to strengthen the Kyoto Protocol to set realistic targets – advocating measures to force the US to live up to its global responsibilities.

*Contraction and convergence* is a solution that combines equity with rigorous science.

*Contraction* gradually reduces the planet's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to a sustainable annual amount. *Convergence* ensures that all countries' emissions converge over time to a position where entitlement to emit is proportional to population.

### Greens call for

- the EU to introduce tough measures to persuade the US and other nations to sign up to and implement the Kyoto Protocol
- the Kyoto Protocol to be strengthened substantially so that it can become an effective long-term climate change treaty
- all future relevant EU legislation to be drafted so as to enable the EU to achieve its Kyoto commitments and allow for further substantial CO<sub>2</sub> reductions
- the EU to adopt the principles of contraction and convergence.

### Protecting biodiversity

This is an area where Europe can make a real difference to our quality of life and that of future generations. The European Union

### Our MEPs' achievements so far ...

*Green Party MEPs challenge policymakers to put the environment at the heart of legislation. Jean Lambert has worked on the climate change and energy agenda, promoting a Green vision for London's Energy Strategy.*

*Jean has challenged the construction of waste incinerators, promoting instead a zero-waste principle. She aims to extend public participation in decision-making through changing and enforcing legislation. She has challenged the government on the sustainability of East London's Thames Gateway regeneration, fighting to protect the green belt from development.*

*Caroline Lucas led a media campaign on the issue of nanotechnology, and co-hosted the European Parliament's first public hearing on the subject, commissioning research on whether EU regulation is adequate. She has forced the Commission to investigate the UK government subsidies to British Energy's failing nuclear industry, and whether the government broke EU safety laws when permitting the release of nuclear waste into the River Tamar. Caroline has successfully defended Europe's plans to improve the safety of bathing water and extended the law to bathers and to others such as surfers.*

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# “Climate change is the biggest threat to the world economy.”

has an important role to play in protecting our wildlife, habitats and biodiversity. Over the last 50 years the Common Agricultural Policy has had a major impact on Europe’s environment. It must be replaced if we are to see improvements in the health of our countryside and environment. The Habitats and Birds Directives must not only be properly implemented and enforced but also strengthened.

**Greens call for**

- environmental protection and sustainable development as key objectives of all relevant EU legislation and in the allocation of EU funding
- action to create more green spaces and protect existing ones from development
- proper implementation, enforcement and strengthening of the Habitats and Birds Directives
- replacement of the Common Agricultural Policy, to ensure that farming benefits our wildlife, habitats and biodiversity.

**A safe environment**

It has become difficult to trust government

experts who so frequently disregard public safety, and government officials who have ever-closer links to the industries they are supposed to regulate. EU legislation designed to protect us from hazardous chemicals is totally ineffective – currently we have little or no human health or environmental safety information for more than 95% of the chemicals we use. The new chemicals legislation currently being discussed must be strengthened, given that human health and environmental protection are more important than the financial interests of the chemical industry. But killing millions of laboratory animals will not make chemicals safer, since animal toxicity testing is outdated and unreliable. A non-animal test strategy must be incorporated into EU chemicals legislation.

**Reduce, re-use, repair and recycle**

England and Wales produce about 435 million tonnes of waste a year – and enough in one hour to fill the Royal Albert Hall. Most of our waste is either dumped in landfill sites that are fast running out of space, or burned in incinerators – which

causes pollution, poses a risk to our health and diverts waste from recycling projects. Only about 12% of our waste is currently recycled or composted. EU legislation can make a critical difference to this. Green MEPs have worked hard to try to strengthen the relevant EU legislation, including the Landfill Directive, Waste Incineration Directive, Electrical and Electronic Equipment Waste Directive and Packaging Directive. Reducing waste at source is not only more environmentally sustainable – it also sustains more jobs than either landfill or incineration.

**Greens call for**

- strict enforcement of EU environmental laws to ensure that our food is safe to eat, our water is safe to drink, and our air is safe to breathe
- legal action against member states that flout EU legislation, with penalties reflecting the full environmental, social and health costs
- no company to be given the right to patent life
- strict regulation of new sciences such as nanotechnology
- an ethical chemicals policy prioritising the protection of human health and the environment, using a non-animal test strategy
- a Zero Waste target – maximising recycling, shutting down incinerators.

*Greens are in favour of a change of attitude from the old mentality of ‘produce and disregard’ to a new philosophy of ‘reduce, re-use, repair and recycle’.*



**CHRIS LENNARD** Green Party candidate, West Midlands, and National Spokesperson on the Environment.

*“Climate change isn’t just an environmental problem. It’s the biggest threat to the world’s economy. We can expect storms and floods, droughts, rising sea-level*

*and spread of tropical diseases. In some countries it will mean desertification, famine and refugee crises. Is this progress?*

*“The measures needed to reduce emissions would bring huge social benefits, like abolishing fuel poverty and creating jobs in renewable energy and recycling. Conservation measures could cut people’s home energy needs by 30% in ten years, reducing pollution while creating employment. Traffic emissions could be cut by 20% in ten years, meaning much better public transport. This would be Real Progress.”*

**LABOUR/TORY WASTE MANAGEMENT**

**= rubbish + landfill + incinerators.**

**Incinerators = more pollution + fewer jobs per tonne of waste.**

**IS THAT PROGRESS?**

**ZERO WASTE POLICY = waste reduction + recycling + less pollution**

**+ fewer landfill sites + more jobs per tonne of waste.**

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# Economy

***Economic development should strengthen local economies and provide decent, secure jobs with a living wage. The quality of economic development is crucial – the right kind can revitalise local communities, provide real social improvements, strengthen environmental protection and ensure greater global equality and justice.***

*The EU is trying to force third world governments to open up their water provision to western companies, even though privatisation has led to overcharging and riots in several countries.*

The type of economic development currently favoured by the European Union – economic globalisation – is taking us in the wrong direction. Immense power has been handed over to the World Trade Organisation (WTO), whose rules enforce international competitiveness – making local markets and industries vulnerable to the power of global corporations – even if this leads to job insecurity, the closing of factories and the destruction of local agriculture. WTO rules restrict economic and trade decisions that seek to provide social benefits or local employment, or that favour high environmental or animal protection standards. Tellingly, the WTO sees these standards as ‘technical barriers to trade’.

Economic globalisation is not inevitable – it is the result of our political leaders choosing to act in the interests of multinational corporations. At the WTO ministerial meeting in Cancun, the EU pushed hardest for trade talks to include new issues – causing the talks to break down as a result of opposition from developing countries.

# Economics as if people mattered

The EU pro-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.

With new countries joining the EU, the ‘globalisation’ approach to economic development will continue to be damaging. It will undermine efforts to revitalise local economies and to secure much-needed improvements in social, environmental and animal protection legislation.

The Green Party will work for a social Europe, promoting economic development that gives social and environmental benefit. Decisions about promoting sustainable economic development must be taken by democratically elected bodies, held to account by the communities they represent.

The EU should help national and local governments to take greater control of their local and regional economies and to encourage economic diversity. Goods and services should be produced more locally wherever that is appropriate and feasible.

## Greens would

- measure economic development in terms of quality – including quality of life, social and economic benefits to local communities, terms of employment, and environmental and animal protection
- replace the existing international trade rules that favour globalisation with a General Agreement on Sustainable Trade, putting people and the environment before the interests of multinationals
- bring multinationals to account through strict, legally binding EU and global controls
- introduce a tax on currency speculation – which would fund measures to increase global equality and strengthen local economies
- address the threat of relocation with ‘site here to sell here’ conditions, making access to markets conditional on maintaining a physical presence
- improve targeting of EU ‘regeneration’ funds – and monitor the effects of their use – to strengthen local economies and to increase the benefit to those in need

## Our MEPs’ achievements so far ...

*Green Party MEPs strive against big business interests to bring sustainability into EU economic policy. Jean Lambert is the only MEP to question the Central European Bank on its integration of environmental and sustainability policies.*

*As Green Party spokesperson on Employment, Social Affairs and Pensions, Jean is active in the wage poverty campaign, speaking nationally on the need for an increased state pension, and challenging the Government on its opt-out of the Working Time Directive. She fought Government efforts to opt out of EU rules raising standards for temporary agency workers and has influenced the Commission’s Action Plan on Social Inclusion linking social inclusion to jobs, training and the environment.*

*Caroline Lucas, a member of the EU delegation to the WTO Ministerial meetings, condemns a globalised, corporate-led trading system. As Vice-President of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, she has called on the Commission to review WTO procedures and rules in favour of developing countries.*

*As a leading member of the No Euro Campaign she has made the case for a progressive, internationalist position against the Euro. Our MEPS have campaigned for a binding legal framework for corporate social responsibility.*

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# “Green policies could create a million jobs”

- 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
- improve EU-wide co-operation to control tax evasion – including offshore banking
- use economic investment to create sustainable jobs – targeting green and appropriate labour-intensive industries such as energy, waste management, transport
- improve and monitor the quality of economic development, with greater use of sustainability audits and economic tests to assess the quality and outcomes of investment
- keep it local – enabling greater local circulation of capital, with investment in credit unions and community banks and support for local business initiatives and trading networks.

## The Single Currency

It is because we have a broad, global outlook that the Green Party is opposed to the introduction of the Single Currency

across Europe. The potential for real economic progress is being undermined by narrowly defined EU economic objectives, of which the euro is a key part.

The Single Currency will create an economic superpower designed to compete with the US on its own terms, where social and environmental concerns and global justice are of little importance. The inevitable centralisation of economic policies will transfer economic control to the undemocratic, unaccountable European Central Bank.

Although Greens agree that US dominance acts against the best interests of the world as a whole, creating another super-bloc is no solution. The Single Currency was designed to serve big business – not the interests of the people.

This is democratically unacceptable, and cannot meet the diverse needs of 350 million Europeans. The tightening of monetary policy in Germany after re-unification in 1990 showed the chaos of combining unmatched economies. Imposing a one-size-fits-all economic policy on a diverse continent will increase regional

disparities and unemployment across Europe, undermining 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.

Official figures on inflation, unemployment, interest rates and debt show that the UK economic cycle is out of step with much of continental Europe. Greens believe that the UK should set its own levels of taxation, public spending and public borrowing in accordance with its particular needs, and the values of social/economic justice and environmental protection. The Single Currency undermines this.

*The EU constitution needs to embody green values and priorities, putting people and planet before profit, and ensuring the European Parliament has a much greater share of EU-level decision-making power. To become democratically legitimate, the constitution must be considered by those living in member states, through referenda.*



**David Taylor**, leading Green Candidate in the South West and co-ordinator of the South West's 'No Euro' Campaign against the single currency.

*“In the 1990s, studies showed that Green policies could create a million UK jobs, restore the UK's*

*manufacturing base, stabilise our struggling agriculture sector, stop jobs being transferred abroad, and make a prosperous quality of life sustainable. Just how much progress has been made in the last decade?*

*“The rich have continued to get richer while the poor have got poorer. A third of British children are in poverty. More students are struggling to make ends meet. Many people travel further to work for longer hours with less favourable contracts in less secure jobs. Half of our pensioners have to undergo means testing and two-thirds are living below the poverty line. Is our economy working?”*

**LABOUR + TORY + LIB DEM ECONOMICS**

**= globalisation + privatisation.**

**IS THAT PROGRESS?**

**GREEN ECONOMICS**

**= fairer wealth distribution + public ownership of public utilities + a restored UK manufacturing base + better workers' rights.**

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# Food & Farming

# Food we can trust

**Everyone is entitled to healthy, wholesome food that has been produced using methods that do not harm the environment, waste resources, or cause cruelty to animals. Imported food should be produced in conditions where workers' rights and environmental standards are respected and upheld – and in accordance with 'fair trade' principles.**

## A GM-free Europe

According to the European Commission, 'a majority of Europeans do not support GM foods'.<sup>1</sup> Genetic modification threatens to contaminate crops, undermine organic farming, alter the ecological balances of soil structure and wildlife, pass genetic alterations to wild plant species through cross-pollination and pose an unacceptable risk to human health. GM technology will give corporations increased power by tying farmers into the purchase of specific seeds, herbicides and pesticides.<sup>2</sup>

EU-level opposition to GM is led by the Greens, who are demanding purity of non-GM food and feed, protection for organic farming and continuation of the EU moratorium on the commercial growing of GM crops. GM producers must be made liable for contamination of non-GM crops and for any future harm to the environment or human health.

## Replace CAP and CFP

The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) has subsidised high outputs, with the bulk of payments rewarding large agribusiness and

monoculture. The aims of producing healthy food, fostering diverse rural economies and protecting the environment have been undermined.

Accession countries to the EU are likely to face both discrimination in the application of subsidies and the devastating effect of the CAP on traditional agriculture.

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

The Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) has led to over-exploitation and destruction of fisheries following the removal of regional and national control. Greens will work to release Britain from the CFP and to introduce a framework of European legislation to protect marine ecosystems.

## Promoting local food

The global transport of food is one of the fastest growing sources of greenhouse gas emissions.<sup>5</sup> Further trade liberalisation will

## Rural and ecological decline

*Over the last 50 years, changes in farming practices, driven by government policy and pressure from the large food processors, have devastated the UK countryside, driven smaller farmers out of business and increased levels of illnesses such as heart disease and diabetes, especially among the poor.*

*In 1939, half a million farms in the UK employed around 15% of the population; by 2000, farming employed only 2%.<sup>3</sup> Between 1992 and 1999 England lost an area of grassland the size of Bedfordshire, equivalent to 100 football pitches every day.<sup>4</sup>*

increase food transport worldwide and extend the absurd practice of the same countries importing and exporting the same product at the same time. The top four supermarkets in Britain account for nearly half the UK food retail market, and through their huge buying power they dictate farm prices at home and abroad. We need to change this system, so that farmers receive a fairer price for their produce and retail profits are not concentrated in the hands of the supermarket giants. Local procurement,

## Our MEPs' achievements so far ...

Caroline Lucas, as Vice-President of the European Parliament's Committee of Inquiry into the Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak, worked to ensure that in future a vaccination policy will be used rather than the wholesale slaughter of healthy animals.

Caroline has been an outspoken critic of the Common Agricultural Policy and has campaigned for an organic, local and safe agricultural system. She has written reports on Local Food, proposing ways of reducing supermarket power, and has lobbied the UK government to use EU money to help farmers create and promote local food initiatives. She has submitted amendments to EU public procurement rules to try to ensure that local authorities can ringfence a proportion of their budgets for the procurement of local products.

Jean Lambert has highlighted the exploitation of poorly paid workers in the food industry, their exploitation being a direct result of production measures.

Both of our MEPs have campaigned tirelessly against GMOs. The Green/EFA Group was instrumental in ensuring all food or feed derived from GMOs is labelled. Caroline has spoken at public meetings in favour of keeping the EU's moratorium on GMOs.

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# “Real Progress is the promotion of local food production”

farmers’ markets, box schemes and allotments are just some of the ways that we can regain a healthy and sustainable supply of food.

## Changing trade rules

Our buying and eating habits affect people and economies globally. 840 million people currently go hungry. This outrage must be addressed through our own food and farming policies as well as through international bodies. Even when suffering basic food shortages at home, countries are often forced to export food and animal feed to EU markets, while the dumping of EU surpluses undermines local markets in other parts of the world. The World Trade Organisation and the World Bank are part of this problem, as an increasingly global promotion of free trade is undermining local food security.<sup>6</sup>

Greens are demanding that trade should be based on ‘fair trade’ not ‘free trade’ principles.

## Safe and sustainable food

Pesticide residues, antibiotics and food additives pose an unacceptable threat to

human health. Action is needed at EU level to reduce the use of harmful chemicals in food production and processing. Greens are pressing for EU-wide targets to increase organic production, including support and advice for organic farmers and development of ecologically benign growing methods.

Today’s intensive meat industry contributes to global warming, deforestation, and soil erosion. It relies on farming methods that are cruel to animals, waste resources and harm the environment. A meat-based diet uses far more land and water resources – often in developing countries – than a vegetarian or plant-based diet. Reducing the EU’s high levels of meat consumption is necessary for sustainable development and greater global equality, as well as for the protection of animals and the environment.

## Real progress on food and farming means

- a GM-free Europe – with no GMO releases and no imports of GM food and animal feed
- replacement of the CAP with policies to promote organic farming, high animal

welfare standards and sustainable rural development

- an end to all EU export subsidies
- EU-wide organic targets and organic standards legislation
- EU policy to allow local authorities and other bodies to set local food procurement targets
- reduction of ‘food miles’ and promotion of local food production and consumption
- changes in global trade rules to benefit local markets and make trade fair
- higher animal protection standards and an end to factory farming
- a ban on the use and export of harmful pesticides.

## Food security

*Food security may be defined as the means – as an individual family, community, region or country – to meet nutritional needs adequately on a daily and annual basis. It includes freedom from both famine and chronic malnutrition. Food security is best assured when food is locally produced, processed, stored and distributed, and is available on a continuous basis regardless of climate and other variations. Greens would introduce a food security clause at the WTO to allow countries to protect their domestic agriculture from foreign imports up to the point of self-sufficiency.*

1. **Europeans and Biotechnology in 2002**, a survey managed by the European Commission’s press and public opinion analysis unit.
2. **The Atlas of Food**, Erik Millstone and Tim Lang, Earthscan 2003
3. **Stopping the Great Food Swap**, Caroline Lucas MEP, the Greens/Free Alliance in the European Parliament, 2001.
4. **Campaign to Protect Rural England** (CPRE)
5. **The Atlas of Food**, Erik Millstone and Tim Lang, Earthscan 2003
6. See box above.



**Martyn Shrewsbury**, leading Green candidate in Wales, and Leader of Wales Green Party/Plaid Werdd Cymru.

“Under Labour, a typical British taxpayer pays £134 in agricultural subsidies every year. From these subsidies, seven of Britain’s richest landowners get

£2 million a year between them.

“We pay the biggest farmers to produce too much, while smaller farms struggle. We dump the surpluses on poorer countries, which puts their own farmers out of business. Is this progress?

“If we scrap the CAP we can save £3.9 billion a year to put into safe, healthy organic food – better for wildlife, better for jobs, better for Britain’s rural economy. That’s Real Progress.”

**LABOUR = GM foods = health risks + environmental damage.**

**LABOUR = poor treatment of farm animals**

**= food crises like BSE + Foot-and-Mouth.**

**LABOUR = intensive farming = more pesticides + soil erosion + fewer jobs per acre.**

**IS THAT PROGRESS?**

**GREEN AGRICULTURE POLICY = safer, healthier, tastier organic food + more jobs per acre + better treatment of animals.**

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# Transport

# Reliable alternatives to driving

***We all need access to decent transport facilities. Yet poor public transport, especially in rural areas, and unbearable congestion and pollution levels reveal how little progress has been made. We must change transport and planning policies so that everyone can have confidence in the alternatives to car use. Although most travel in Europe is short distance, most EU transport spending goes on long distance trips. This contributes to the damage done to the global environment by greenhouse gas emissions and other forms of pollution.***

European institutions spend billions of euros on environmentally damaging projects, including new motorways and airports. Greens want to transfer these funds to projects that reduce Europe's road traffic and so improve health, safety and quality of life for all.

Walking and cycling are the most healthy and pollution-free modes of transport, but these hardly ever get taken into account when planning transport policies.

80% of all car journeys are under three miles. We aim to ensure that safe walking and cycling routes are given importance at all levels of transport planning and funding. The benefits are enormous – an alternative to car travel that is safe, healthy and pollution-free, as well as nurturing lively and friendly communities.

#### **Greens want**

- safe walking and cycling routes to every school in the EU – reducing term-time congestion by 30%.

#### **Public transport**

The profit motive is an inappropriate basis for a green transport system. Greens would

re-nationalise and re-integrate the railways to increase capacity, safety and reliability. Investment in community bus schemes, dial-a-ride and disabled transport is essential – and the car option should never be cheaper than taking public transport.

#### **Greens want**

- investment in rail freight, with fewer lorries on EU roads
- freight through the Channel Tunnel to use railways for the whole of its journey.

#### **Reducing traffic**

Road pricing, along with parking charges at both workplaces and out-of-town shops, should be used to recover some of the huge hidden costs paid to subsidise private motoring. Revenues raised will be used to improve alternatives to car use and to plan streets for people rather than fast-moving traffic.

In 1995 the European Parliament met the calls of Green MEPs to halve ozone smog levels.

#### **Green MEPs also want**

- sulphur, nitrogen oxide and particulate

emissions to be reduced to 10-30% of current levels

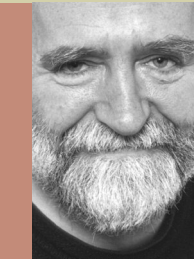
- Green transport plans that reduce car commuter trips by 25%
- pedestrianisation, Home Zones and low-emission zones, with 20mph limits in built-up areas
- the 50 major trunk road schemes due to be completed in the next five years scrapped
- an EU maximum speed limit of 55mph.

#### **Making rail cheaper than flying**

Air travel is a heavily subsidised industry and has got away far too long without paying the full cost of the pollution it creates. It is the fastest-growing contributor to greenhouse gas emissions. It should never be cheaper to travel by air than to take a train.

#### **Greens want**

- an EU-wide aviation fuel levy
- local air traffic congestion charges levelled at airports
- subsidies to ensure that rail fares are affordable and cheaper than air travel
- no new runways.



**Cllr John Whitelegg**, Leader of North West Green Party, Professor of Sustainable Transport at Liverpool John Moores University and Professor of Sustainable Development at the University of York.

***“Every year the UK aviation industry gets £9 billion tax breaks plus £4 billion in hidden subsidies. This economic favouritism means unsustainable growth in flights, more airport expansions, more pollution, making aviation the fastest-growing source of greenhouse gases. That’s not progress.***

***“Greens want these tax breaks abolished throughout the EU, and the hidden subsidies ended. This would save £13 billion in a year, to put into improving public transport. That would be progress.”***

## **Our MEPs’ achievements so far ...**

*Green MEPs have promoted a transport system that serves the needs of local communities without destroying our health or the environment. Jean Lambert has worked with the Green Party’s London Assembly members seeking to expand congestion charging in London and promoting it elsewhere. Caroline Lucas persuaded the European Parliament to back new environmental charges and noise restrictions on airlines and led a campaign to ban all night flights.*

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# Energy

## Clean, Green affordable power

**There is an urgent need for all European countries to adopt sustainable energy supplies.**

**If the earth were a metre in diameter, the atmosphere would be just 1mm thick. Every use of fossil fuel energy – for transport, heating, electricity, or indirectly through the manufacture and transportation of goods we consume – pollutes the fragile skin that protects life on this planet.**

### Nuclear trains

*In 2001 a European Parliament report called on “all member states as far as possible to avoid transit of nuclear waste through densely populated areas”. This recommendation needs immediate implementation – but we also need to shut down the entire nuclear industry.*

Although invisible, the carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) discarded in the atmosphere by human activities is one of the main greenhouse gases and a major contributor to global warming. This is the principal environmental threat confronting us today, and threatens massive disruption to centres of human population and vital ecosystems across the world.

A switch to renewable, more local energy is essential to meet the needs of the planet’s 2.6 billion people who currently have negligible or no access to electricity.<sup>7</sup>

Investment in renewable, local supplies is vital to strengthen energy security. This is essential to prevent ‘oil wars’ like Iraq, where dependence on external sources of fossil fuels can lead to aggressive foreign policies and conflict.

Around 30,000 people, mainly the elderly and the very young, die in this country every year because of fuel poverty. The cost to the NHS has been estimated at £1 billion each year. Directing fuel grants and payments to the people that need them would help to improve their quality of life and mean that energy is used as efficiently as possible.

All possible steps must be taken to conserve energy. Whenever fossil fuel is used, it must be used as efficiently as possible. Renewable energy sources must be developed as rapidly as possible.

Compared to the abysmal position of the US, the EU has moved things forward, but far too slowly. For real progress, we need a truly sustainable and just approach to energy provision – and much more action.

### Greens want

- European regulations on the energy efficiency of new buildings set at high, challenging levels
- regulations to require solar panels on all new developments
- tax incentives to improve the energy efficiency of our housing stock
- abolition of VAT on energy-efficient improvements to properties
- higher energy efficiency standards for appliances, along with improved energy labelling
- fuel tax to be progressively increased for all but the most efficient vehicles, to encourage heavy users to switch vehicles

- an end to fuel poverty – using a range of measures, including subsidies
- an EU-wide carbon levy
- research funding targeted towards combined heat and power stations and renewables – not nuclear fusion
- prohibition of the most wasteful, unnecessary uses of energy – and an end to environmentally harmful subsidies
- phasing-out of nuclear power and abolition of the Euratom treaty for the expansion of nuclear power (this is the most expensive means of power generation, and there is no solution to the problem of dealing with nuclear waste; if the Romans had had nuclear power, we would still be guarding their waste today!)
- renewable energy technologies transferred to poorer countries, so that they can control their own energy supplies.

<sup>7</sup> 1.6 billion people have no access to electricity. A further one billion have limited access.



**CLLR MARK HILL**, leading Green candidate for Yorkshire and the Humber, and a member of the Green Party group on York City Council.

*“In 2001 alone, Germany installed 15,000 solar power systems and 100,000 solar water heaters. That gave*

*Germany’s rooftops over a million square metres of solar panels, growing by a million more a year and providing employment for over 20,000 people. Because their environment minister is a Green Party politician, they install more solar roofs in a good month than Britain’s Labour government planned to install in three years.*

*“If you want swift progress you need to elect Greens. Electing more British Green MEPs will help bring that kind of progress to Britain and to the whole of Europe.”*

### NUCLEAR POWER

**= expensive electricity + more cancer + environmental risks  
+ fewer jobs per unit of power.**

### IS THAT PROGRESS?

### RENEWABLE ENERGY

**= safe, clean energy + reduced CO<sub>2</sub> emissions + more jobs per unit of power.**

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**Real Progress**





# Public services for all

*The Green Party is committed to the provision of high quality public services through public ownership and democratic public control, with more services available locally, free at the point of use and accessible to all.*

## **Strengthening services and communities, meeting needs**

The current trends of under-investment, poor-quality services and privatisation must be reversed. The UK Government's public service 'reforms' mean that fewer services are available locally, with people having to travel further for the vital services they need. The breakdown in local services makes it harder for local communities to function properly – often threatening their very survival and making daily life much more difficult for older people, people with disabilities and single parents.

Cutbacks in education and lack of local facilities for young people often go hand-in-hand with increases in youth crime. Without good local services our neighbourhoods feel less safe and the services we rely on, or may come to need, are hard to find or non-existent. We all lose out.

For real progress on social justice, opportunities and a decent quality of life for all, we need an **EU policy to improve public services**, which:

- sets minimum standards to ensure that

## **Our MEPs' achievements so far ...**

Our MEPs have been working closely with trade unions to defend and strengthen public services.

Caroline Lucas was one of 100 representatives to sign a 'Call to oppose the WTO's liberalisation of public services and for greater transparency and democratic control'. Under the General Agreement in Trade and Services (GATS) new rules will reduce barriers to foreign investment. Caroline and Jean Lambert submitted a joint response to the GATS consultation warning the process distanced citizens from decision making. Caroline has consistently challenged Pascal Lamy's claims that the GATS negotiations were open and democratic and Jean published a report explaining the dangers, mobilising local action.

As part of the Social Europe Campaign, Jean has called for the guaranteed inclusion of public services in the EU Constitutional Treaty. She has campaigned against the liberalisation of postal services, leading the Green challenge in London. Jean has also been challenging the Government's opt-out of the Working Time Directive as it leads to so many abuses. Given that public services are the biggest users of temporary agency workers, Jean is pushing for EU legislation to extend full-time employment rights to temporary staff.

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# “Public services should not be for private profit”

essential services – like schools, health care, post offices, libraries and nurseries – are made available locally to all

- recognises the right of all people in the EU to equal access to decent primary and continuing education – including lifelong learning
- includes the right of universal access to affordable and high-quality public services as one of the EU’s fundamental objectives
- makes a high level of public health a key objective – guaranteeing the right of access to high-quality public health care services.

## **A fair way to fund services**

Public services need proper investment. Poorer countries and regions rightly get financial help from the European Union, and EU enlargement – to 25 countries – will see more countries in real need of this support.

The UK is one of the richest European countries, with inner London the richest single area of the EU. In contrast to many of the new members, it is much better able to afford good quality public services.

To improve services the UK needs higher

levels of public investment, funded by a fairer, more just taxation system that includes eco-taxes and an increased tax on top earners. A fairer system here will mean better public services and will help ensure that European money – such as the Structural Funds, to which the UK should continue to contribute – is targeted at those regions in greatest need.

## **Defending public services against privatisation**

The privatisation of public services threatens the public service ethos, puts profits before the provision of services, and undermines the rights of public sector workers.

The privatisation of services – like the railways and some council services – can lead to a decrease in service quality. As with the railways, this can actually cost lives. The failure of the private sector has led to some councils bringing services back into the public sector.

The Green Party opposes the UK Government’s Private Finance Initiative (PFI). The Eurozone countries are having to meet the public borrowing conditions of the

Stability Pact, forcing many to slash public spending on services. For the UK this would mean more disastrous PFI schemes and privatisation.

## **A halt to GATS**

Greens oppose EU endorsement of the World Trade Organisation’s proposals to extend the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS). GATS will force services to be exposed to big business, which will inevitably put profits before the provision of accessible, affordable services. GATS will also stop public authorities from making decisions about services that would improve local economies or bring about social or environmental benefits.

GATS is anti-democratic. It will ‘lock in’ privatisation, even when this isn’t wanted by the public and its political representatives. EU negotiations on GATS have been conducted in secret, with elected Members of the European Parliament excluded from the proceedings.

It will be disastrous for developing countries. They will be put under immense pressure to hand over control of their basic

services to western multinationals – who will be set to make increasing profits from the prices they decide to charge.

For progress on public services, the EU must:

- reject GATS, halting its negotiation
- assess the impact on services of current liberalisation
- reject trade agreements that threaten the public control and provision of public services
- give the European Parliament a greater role in decision-making.



**Margaret Wright**, leading candidate in Eastern region, national spokesperson on consumer affairs and former Principal Speaker of the Green Party of England & Wales.

“A hospital built recently as a Private Finance Initiative cost £240 million. The same hospital built by the NHS would have cost £180 million. Schools built under PFI have been found to meet lower standards with respect to light, space, heating, and acoustics, while being no cheaper than schools built directly from public funds. Unions say privatisation will lead to a two-tier NHS and two-tier workforces in local councils.

“The Green principle is very simple: public services should not be a vehicle for private profit. They are there to serve the public. They should be properly funded from public money and properly accountable to the people that use them. This is the principle Greens fight for at local, national and European levels.”

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# Peace & justice Safer country, safer world

***Global security has been transformed by the events of 11 September, 2001. The US, the world's only superpower, sees the world through the prism of terrorism as being full of rogue states possessing weapons of mass destruction. Its response is to impose its military and economic power with a fresh assertiveness, frequently breaking well-established international law, in order to retain overwhelming power.***

This approach is fundamentally opposed to the Green vision of global relations, based on co-operation and common security. Greens are engaged with long-term efforts to overcome established cultures of violence that reached a crescendo in the twentieth century. The Green Party believes that realistic moves can be made towards more peaceful relations, based upon a just international system.

## ***Iraq***

Since the overtures to the first Gulf War in 1990, the Green Party has consistently called for a peaceful settlement of the Iraq problem. For many years up to 2002, it advocated the lifting of sanctions. In 2002 and 2003 it strongly opposed an illegal second Gulf War. No other British political party can match our record of urging peaceful diplomacy rather than the destructive aggression that is now reaping inevitable and appalling consequences in the former sovereign state of Iraq.

## ***Europe and the United States***

Allocating a budget of \$380 billion (around

## ***Our MEPs' achievements so far ...***

*Peace and security have informed our MEPs' work both inside and outside the Parliament. Both played prominent roles in the anti-war movement during the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts, speaking at million-plus peace marches in London. Caroline took the anti-war message to the Labour Party conference, challenging delegates to quit Labour to promote peace.*

*On the eve of the war in Iraq, Caroline joined a Parliamentary fact-finding mission there to see the human impact of the last conflict, publicising the increase in child cancer levels from the last Gulf War as a result of the use of depleted uranium.*

*Jean visited Hiroshima at the request of CND, where she spoke at their annual peace conference. Jean has also challenged the EU Presidency about increased military spending. Both MEPs have kept pressure on the Government to disarm its nuclear weapons.*

*Caroline has undertaken citizens' weapons inspections of UK and US military bases, and has spoken at rallies across the country. She was arrested for breaching the peace during a peaceful blockade of the Trident nuclear submarine base at Faslane.*

*Caroline ensured that the UK's nuclear weapons industry is being prosecuted for radioactive discharges from the Devonport Trident base.*

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# “We subsidise arms exports by over £400 million a year”

40% of global military expenditures) in 2003-4 and spending a great deal more, the US has an extraordinary belief in its own military and economic power. Political leaders and the media have played on people’s fear of insecurity and their understandable desire for quick solutions to complex problems – problems partly caused by short-sighted and cynical western policies.

There is a contest over European defence policy today between those looking for close alignment with the United States and those who want a strong Europe with its own identity that begins to challenge the US. Both sides are lobbying for greater defence spending.

Greens reject both options, preferring a Europe that leads by example, with an effective, largely non-military security based on trust and co-operation. Greens have been at the forefront of setting up a European Peace Corps, to bring assistance to those caught up in conflict. Since the Second World War the focus in Europe has been to promote positive common human values and security, and Greens believe we need

institutions to match and develop this trend.

Unlike NATO, the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) operates by consensus for common security – dealing with internal, diverse threats to human security. It prevents and solves conflict by operating with the parties involved to find solutions without using force. The OSCE has not enjoyed strong support from governments, yet on minimal funding has succeeded in handling conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, Croatia, Chechnya and Kosovo.

## Greens would

- strengthen the OSCE as the main organisation for European security
- withdraw from NATO and seek its dissolution
- support the appropriate use of UN peace-keeping forces, when genuinely agreed by more than a handful of powerful states
- press for reform of the UN Security Council, so that it is no longer dominated by powerful, rich countries
- close all US bases on European soil.

## Disarmament and the arms trade

Greens believe that security will be strengthened by co-operative disarmament. Weapons of mass destruction in anyone’s hands threaten global security and promote proliferation. Nuclear weapons are by far the most dangerous and destructive. We demand immediate disarmament of all nuclear, chemical and biological weapons – including those stockpiled by Britain, other European countries and the USA.

British taxpayers currently subsidise arms exports by over £400m a year – a subsidy that fuels conflict. Greens are campaigning to end government subsidies on arms sales and to strengthen controls.

## Principles of Green security

**COMMON SECURITY** – security that is built on trust developed over time. Policies that promote ‘strong’ aggressive military postures weaken trust and global security. Greens promote collaborative security based on multilateral negotiation.

**EFFECTIVENESS** – security that is real and sustainable for individuals, the state and the planet. Greens believe the causes of conflict and insecurity lie in inequality, injustice and policies of military-economic domination.

**MINIMUM MILITARY PREPARATIONS** – defence spending and military preparations that are proportionate to real threats. Nuclear weapons, for example, are always disproportionate.

**MINIMUM INTERVENTION AND CONFLICT PREVENTION** – intervention largely by consensus and, if military-based, only under the sanction of the UN or the OSCE. Conflict prevention must be based on respecting human rights and empowering local communities, and must come before commercial and ‘strategic’ interests.

**PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY AND ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP** – defence budgets, military decisions and war declarations publicly debated in advance. Moves towards greater secrecy in Europe over security decisions must be strongly resisted.



**Dr Caroline Lucas MEP**, leading candidate in South East England and Principal Speaker of the Green Party of England & Wales.

“Sanctions that killed over 500,000 Iraqi children. Thousands of civilians killed in the bombing of Iraq and Afghanistan. Repeated breaches of international criminal law by the British government in support of a US agenda of global dominance. Arms sales to violent dictators. Proliferation of nuclear technologies. These are the policies of the mainstream parties. Have they made the world more peaceful or secure?

“Europe must stand up to an aggressive, imperialist US administration and support the UN in its peaceful efforts to maintain security, for example through weapons inspections. The EU must campaign for nuclear disarmament and for an end to arms sales to violent or oppressive regimes. The EU should be a force for peace.”

## LABOUR + TORY + LIB DEM

= nuclear weapons + arms sales to dictators + ‘war on terror’  
= global insecurity + frequent conflict.

## GREEN DEFENCE POLICY

= common security + peace promotion + arms limitation  
= PEACE.

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# Human rights

***The Green Party believes that the European Union should be putting human rights at the heart of all policy making.***

Any EU constitution should incorporate the Charter of Fundamental Rights and the values of democracy, equality, solidarity and equal opportunities.

## **The European Union should**

- become a signatory to the European Convention on Human Rights
- play a greater role in strengthening and reforming the United Nations Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR)
- use its position at the Geneva UNCHR sessions more effectively, to ensure that the UN acts on the concerns of human rights organisations.

EU treaties and the EU constitution must uphold the rights of workers – including the right to join or form a trade union, to obtain union representation and to take industrial action.

Human rights also mean equal treatment for all people regardless of age, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, disability or religious belief or non-belief. Although made up of some of the world's richest countries, the EU remains blighted by

# Equality in dignity and rights

inequalities and poverty. The gap between rich and poor continues to grow within Europe and beyond. Progress will only come if positive steps are taken to address long-standing inequalities and discrimination.

- The EU should place greater emphasis on closing the gap between rich and poor.
- Qualified majority voting should be extended to all EU efforts to tackle discrimination.

The EU must take greater action to close the gender gap and tackle discrimination against women – in social as well as economic life. Women in the EU still face discrimination. On average they earn 16% less than men. With unpaid work, childcare and other caring responsibilities affecting women much more than men, the EU must address these imbalances.

- Equality of pay should be a priority for the EU.

There are some 37 million people with disabilities in the European Union. A more comprehensive approach is needed for greater protection of disability rights.

- The EU should adopt a far-reaching Disability Directive – addressing issues like education, transport and access to services and goods.

Greater EU action is needed to end discrimination based on sexual orientation.

- EU-wide same-sex partnership registers should be introduced.
- Family definitions in the EU should be extended beyond the nuclear family.

There must be greater action to end age discrimination, so that people are not forced to leave work early or to put up with second-class health care. We advocate decent state pensions linked to average earnings or the cost of living, whichever is greater, and more recognition of the significant contribution older people make to society.

Restrictions on citizenship are frequently used to discriminate against ethnic minorities.

- Full citizen's rights should be granted to all legal EU residents – including 'third-

## **Our MEPs' achievements so far ...**

*Promoting human rights drives the work of the Green MEPs. Jean Lambert has extended freedom of movement for non-EU nationals and the rights of EU citizens to access social security benefits. Her aim is to broaden the proposed EU-wide definition of refugee status and she has ensured training programmes are offered to asylum seekers. She maintains pressure on the EU to increase funding for torture victim rehabilitation.*

*Jean's work with the cross-party anti-racism group has drawn attention to deaths in police custody, and contributed to the EU's critical reports of the UK's human rights record. She has brought international police and the Government together to fight human trafficking and worked to halt the Government's export credit department using taxpayers' money to indirectly fund human rights abuses in Turkey and Georgia.*

*Caroline has attended three WTO meetings and argued for human rights to form part of the EU's negotiation strategy. She chaired a Parliamentary hearing into human rights abuses against anti-globalisation protesters at the G8 meeting. She has also visited Israel and the Palestinian Occupied Territories, prompting Parliamentary condemnation of the human rights violations caused by Israel's security fence.*

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# “Refugees are made, not born”

country nationals’. This should include the right to freedom of movement across member states.

The Green Party works for a significant reduction in immigration control and the protection of the rights of migrant workers regardless of their ‘economic value’.

## The EU must

- ensure decent minimum standards are set, so that the rights of migrants are properly protected in member states
- address global inequalities, so that people are not compelled to migrate because of economic hardship.

## Refugees and asylum seekers

Millions of people from around the world are forced to flee their countries, leaving homes and families, as a result of conflict, state terrorism, human rights abuses, racism, discrimination and political repression. Environmental destruction, poverty and the legacy of occupation by western countries continue to be major

causes of displacement.

Greens reject the view that asylum seekers are a burden on society. Rich parts of the world like the countries of the European Union are in the best financial position to meet the costs of accommodating people seeking asylum and of solving domestic social problems – if resources are used in an equitable, just way. Government failures to make progress on social justice, combined with media distortion, have resulted in vicious victimisation of some of the world’s most oppressed and vulnerable people.

- The EU has an important role to play in ensuring that resources are available to meet the needs of people seeking asylum and to support host communities.

To make progress on asylum issues, factors leading people to leave their homes must be addressed. We need:

- far-reaching restrictions on arms trade
- cancellation of third world debt
- an increase in aid budgets – to at least 0.7% of GDP
- global trade rules based on fair trade

- a stronger, globally democratic and well-funded United Nations
- greater responsibility taken by former colonial powers – like the UK and other European countries – responsible for creating many disputed national boundaries
- greater diplomatic efforts to solve long-standing political territorial disputes and civil wars.

The Green Party shares Amnesty International’s concern that the common asylum policy being developed by the EU involves ‘efforts to cut back on refugee protection’ and a ‘drive to curb immigration’ and that it threatens to undermine the Geneva Convention.

The EU must protect the rights of refugees, people seeking asylum and those in need of international protection – setting the highest possible minimum standards in full accordance with the Geneva Convention. Any common asylum policy enshrining low standards is taking us in the wrong direction.

## Progress on tackling racism

- More binding regulations on discrimination
- Extension of citizen’s rights.
- Better treatment and protection of asylum seekers.
- A more liberal approach to migration, with respect for the rights of migrants, regardless of ‘economic value’.
- Reform of the security and immigration services.
- Protection of civil liberties – especially when investigating terrorism.

## Asylum information

Europe is home to a much lower proportion of the world’s refugees than either Asia or Africa. Europe hosts 18.3% of the world’s refugees – Asia hosts 48.3% and Africa hosts 27.5%. Nearly half the world’s refugees come from either Palestine or Afghanistan – both areas of major conflict. Refugees account for 0.29% of the UK’s total population – a significantly lower proportion than in Sweden, Germany, the Netherlands or Austria.



**Jean Lambert MEP**, leading Green candidate for London, European Parliament Green/EFA Group spokesperson on Asylum and Migration, Deputy Member of the European Parliament’s Civil Liberties Committee.

“Green Party asylum policy is rooted in our international obligations to offer refuge to those fleeing human rights abuses, tyranny and oppression. We need to restrict the arms trade, work for recognition of minority rights by promoting universal respect for human rights, and stop attempts to limit refugee numbers through repression and deterrence.

“The Green Party recognises the social and economic contribution asylum seekers make to the UK. We will push to increase aid, cancel debt and base international trade on fair trade principles. Real Progress is ensuring immigration becomes a matter of free choice, not necessity.”

**LABOUR PARTY ASYLUM POLICY = bombing without UN support and then turning away refugees from bombed countries. IS THAT PROGRESS?**

**GREEN PARTY ASYLUM POLICY = restrictions on arms trade + cancellation of third world debt + increase in aid budgets + humane treatment for refugees and asylum seekers.**

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# Animal rights

**The Green Party believes that animals have rights that must be properly protected in law. We need far-reaching change to UK and European policy in a range of areas, including farming, scientific research, land use, habitats and economics. Unsustainable practices and the over-consumption of resources are destroying habitats and ecosystems – the vital support systems for all forms of sentient life, human and animal alike.**

Selective breeding and the ‘biotech revolution’ – farm animals growing faster than their hearts can stand, cows producing drugs instead of milk and laboratory mice developing cancers – reveal just how far we are moving away from a safe, sustainable and ethical relationship with other sentient species.

In 1999, ten million animals were experimented on within the EU – over half in the UK, France and Germany. Non-animal research methods remain barely funded, and existing animal protection measures are poorly enforced. To address this suffering, we need a much more progressive approach.

In the European Parliament, Green MEPs are leading the way. They have pushed for a ban on live animal exports from the UK and the inclusion of animal welfare in the EU constitution. They have introduced proposals to develop non-animal testing methods and cut live animal transport time limits. They have worked to ban cat and dog fur imports, sought to save the Iberian lynx and demanded greater protection for whales.

# Replacing suffering with compassion

We oppose all forms of factory farming, including fish farming, and advocate the ending of animal experimentation.

## **Green MEPs will work for real progress on animal rights, including:**

- an end to live animal exports from the UK, and to EU live animal export refunds
- new tougher laws to improve the on-farm welfare of broiler (meat) chickens and pigs
- farm animals to be slaughtered as close as possible to the farm – and a strict overall journey time limit to be implemented
- a ban on the production, import and sale of battery eggs in the EU
- strict EU-wide legislation for zoos, circuses and the pet trade
- improvement and proper enforcement of the EU Habitats Directive
- an ethical chemicals policy, with non-animal test strategies and an immediate ban on animal-based toxicity testing, which is both unethical and ineffective
- an immediate halt to xenotransplantation

and genetic manipulation of animals

- an immediate ban on the use of primates in animal research
- greater investment in non-animal research and promotion of ethical health policies
- a ban on the import of all fur products – including cat and dog fur
- action to end the bushmeat trade.

World Trade Organisation rules are undermining animal protection legislation on fur, cosmetics testing, and factory farming. Global trade rules need changing to include animal welfare criteria – so that the import of products can be banned on the basis of animal suffering.

## **Our MEPs’ achievements so far ...**

Green Party MEPs consistently put animal welfare high on the European agenda. Caroline Lucas, as Vice-President of the European Parliament’s Animal Welfare group, proposed an entirely non-animal test strategy for chemicals testing as Greens are opposed to animal toxicity testing. Her Parliamentary Question helped increase funding for the validation of non-animal test methods.

Caroline has also campaigned to end the trade in cat and dog fur and for a ban on the import of seal fur. She has tabled amendments to new EU animal transport legislation to allow countries to ban live exports.

Jean Lambert initiated the process that convinced Parliament to call for an Action Plan to tackle the ‘bushmeat’ trade in endangered species and both Members have called on the European Commission to radically reform the Common Fisheries Policy and tackle the by-catch of birds, dolphins and porpoises.

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# Conclusion

*For the past five years, British Green MEPs have worked tirelessly in the European Parliament to promote a green agenda based on peace, justice, equality and protection of the environment. Greens have achieved much during that time – and with your help will make even greater progress.*

A strong Green presence in Europe is now more important than ever, to ensure:

- a stronger voice for peace and diplomacy following the insecurity caused by the Afghanistan and Iraq wars
- action to change an economic system that puts the profits of multinational corporations before the needs of people and the protection of animals and the environment
- a more effective tackling of injustice, inequality and discrimination
- Green responses to the dangers of GM and the ongoing crisis of climate change

# Vote Green on Thursday 10 June 2004

It has never been more important to use your vote in the European election to elect Green MEPs – MEPs who stand for Real Progress.

MEPs are elected by a fairer, more proportional system than that used in UK general elections. This means that Green votes count – and will lead to the election of more Green MEPs.

If you live in the South East or London, voting Green will ensure that Green MEPs get re-elected for your region. But regardless of where you live, your Green vote will help more Greens get elected to the European Parliament.

For more information on the Green Party visit

[www.greenparty.org.uk](http://www.greenparty.org.uk)  
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