

In Europe, in work

The Liberal Democrat manifesto for the 2014 European Parliament elections

Liberal Democrats want Britain to stay in the EU because we are fighting for a stronger economy — millions of British jobs are linked to our trade with the EU

Applicability:

This manifesto contains Federal Liberal Democrat policy. On issues where power is devolved in Scotland and Wales, the policy of the Scottish and Welsh Liberal Democrats applies.

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On 22 May, your choice is simple: do you think Britain is better off in Europe or do you want us out of it? Will you back a party that will lead us towards the exit, or do you want your representatives to make sure Britain remains engaged with our neighbours – a leading nation in our European backyard?

I want you to choose the Liberal Democrats because we are now Britain's only party of IN. We want Britain to stay in Europe – because that is how we keep our country strong, prosperous, safe and green.

- As members of the European Union, our businesses have access to 500 million European customers. Trade with other European countries supports millions of British jobs.
- As members of the European Union, Britain is part of a global economic superpower. We have far greater influence as part of a powerful, 28-member bloc.
- As members of the European Union our police can work with their counterparts abroad to crack down on the criminals who cross our borders. Collectively, our governments can be much bolder in the fight against climate change too.

Over the coming weeks you will hear other parties blame all of Britain's problems on Brussels. It's certainly true that the EU's institutions are not perfect – just as Westminster isn't – and across these pages you'll find details of the ways in which we want to reform them. But don't be fooled: being in Europe is good for Britain. Leaving the EU is the surest way to trash our economic recovery. Pulling up the drawbridge would leave our nation isolated and diminished in the world. Now is the time to use your voice to protect Britain's interests.

On 22 May, vote for the Liberal Democrats.

Nick Clegg

Jobs:

In Europe, in work

Millions of British jobs are linked to our trade with other European countries and being in the European Union gives us more strength to negotiate trade deals with global players like the US, China, India and Brazil, opening up huge opportunities to British business.

Global competition is quickening at a time when the UK and Europe have been weakened by a severe economic and social crisis. We want to respond to this challenge not by looking inward but by working with the rest of the European Union to create millions more jobs. We can do this by removing barriers to trade for British companies, slashing red tape for small businesses, securing funding for innovation and competitiveness, and by using the EU's collective strength to promote trade with the rest of the world.

What Liberal Democrats have already achieved for jobs

- Liberal Democrats in the European Parliament have supported **valuable free trade agreements** with emerging economies around the globe such as South Korea. Since the South Korea agreement alone, British exports to that country have **more than doubled to almost £5 billion**.
- Liberal Democrats in the European Parliament helped secure an exemption for over 100,000 British businesses from complicated accounting rules, **saving small businesses administrative costs** of up to £390 million a year.
- Liberal Democrats helped **cut the European Union budget by £30 billion** while securing over £60 billion in EU-wide funding, including around £2 billion earmarked for small businesses, to support research and technology in universities and companies. Past UK recipients include Manchester University for the development of graphene – ‘the wonder material of the 21st century’ with a huge range of uses from electronics to neurosurgery – plus a further £23m from EU regional aid to build the world’s leading centre of graphene research.

- Liberal Democrats were instrumental in the establishment of the **single European Union patent**, a system which means British inventors now only need to register their product once to protect it across the European Union from intellectual property theft, rather than 28 times, saving entrepreneurs up to £20,000 per patent and protecting jobs.
- Liberal Democrats helped push through new legislation designed to **reduce the number of days needed to set up a new small business**, cut start-up costs, and establish a one-stop shop for business start-ups.
- Liberal Democrats in the European Parliament supported funding that will **invest £8 billion** across all regions of the UK in tackling youth unemployment, re-training, investment in science and manufacturing, the tourism industry and small businesses. Previous funding schemes have helped create over 200,000 new jobs and supported over 200,000 small businesses in the UK.
- Liberal Democrats supported a much-needed **boost for British infrastructure** through a £17.5 billion EU-wide investment that will fund upgrades in our rail network and develop our energy supply, creating thousands of jobs in the process.

How Liberal Democrats in Europe want to create more jobs

More jobs from trade within Europe

- The European Union's single market already provides benefits each year of up to £1225 per British citizen. Now we need to remove the remaining trade barriers and fully **open up this huge market of 500 million customers to British businesses**, which will help the UK and the whole of Europe.
- Liberal Democrats want to open up the EU's online industries, energy market and services – such as accountancy, law and architecture where the UK has a competitive edge – creating **opportunities for UK firms** to expand trade and create jobs.
- Liberal Democrats support **more co-ordinated European transport** to ensure that technical or other trade barriers do not hinder goods moving between the UK and the rest of the European Union. We will

campaign for the removal of barriers which prevent British companies from entering the rail, air and shipping markets in other EU countries.

More jobs from trade with worldwide markets

- The UK benefits hugely from negotiating as part of the European Union which, taken together, is **the world's largest economy and trading bloc** and is vital to opening new markets for UK exports of goods and services.
- Progress is finally being made in **global multilateral trade negotiations** that could significantly help the poorest countries in the world as well as developed economies like ours. Liberal Democrats support efforts to give them even more impetus through the European Union's combined negotiating strength. We achieve more within the World Trade Organisation and other international bodies as full members of the EU with the combined strength of 500 million people than with just the UK's 65 million. We will push for global reductions in price-distorting export subsidies and tariffs that unfairly disadvantage developing economies' exports.
- Liberal Democrats back **European Union trade negotiations with emerging economies** such as India and the MERCOSUR countries of Latin America as well as with other developed economies. We strongly support the trade and investment negotiations with the USA, which could be worth up to £10 billion extra to the UK economy each year, and the EU-Japan trade agreement, which could increase UK GDP by £5 billion a year, with each deal creating thousands of jobs. The Liberal Democrats will work to ensure that environmental, health and safety standards are maintained in all trade negotiations.

Cutting red tape and 'thinking small'

- Small and medium sized businesses are the greatest job creators in the UK economy, providing two-thirds of all private sector jobs. Liberal Democrats will prioritise creating greater opportunities for small and medium sized businesses in the European Union, including promoting measures to improve access to European funding.
- We will support the consistent application of the **'Think Small First'** principle to reduce unnecessary European Union regulatory costs,

which particularly hit smaller businesses. We will demand effective impact assessments before new proposals come forward and exempt smaller businesses from legislation where appropriate.

- Liberal Democrats will back **representation for small and medium-sized businesses** at all European Union negotiations when organisations representing employers and workers agree legislative and policy proposals.
- Smaller German businesses export far more than their UK counterparts – both within the single European market and around the world. To help our small businesses exploit the advantages of the European Union, Liberal Democrats will promote an **easy-to-use EU information portal for small firms** with access to EU and other export-related information, to ensure all British firms know how to take advantage of the single market.
- We want **more trade initiatives** promoted by UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) and UK embassies in other European Union states, such as for the low-carbon and environmental sectors in which the UK is strong, specifically designed to enable smaller firms to meet potential buyers or partners – a low-cost but more ambitious role.

Combining fairness with flexibility

- Liberal Democrats support European Union employment legislation that **upholds fairness and necessary protection of workers**, whilst recognising the need for global competitiveness.
- We will work towards **amending the Working Time Directive** to remove unintended consequences, so that the Directive is not unduly burdensome, especially for small firms, doctors and hospitals, while guaranteeing workers reasonable holidays and rest breaks. We will defend the opt-out of the 48-hour working week limit applied by the UK and 15 other EU countries.

Promoting innovation in science and manufacturing

The promotion of **UK leadership in the EU market for knowledge, research and innovation** is crucial to UK success in global economic competition, where the pace of change quickens every year.

- We will work hard to ensure that **UK universities and companies continue to be successful in obtaining European Union research funding by seizing the opportunities** of £60 billion of European Union funding which supports research and technology.
- Liberal Democrats will support European Union-wide rules for the production of **low emission vehicles**, exploiting the UK's competitive advantage in world markets. This will reinvigorate UK 'green' manufacturing, create jobs and strengthen the UK economy by decreasing our reliance on oil and ultimately save money for the consumer.

Getting British ideas to market faster

European Union research and development funding is designed to bridge the gap between research and the market, turning British **inventions and technological breakthroughs** into products with real commercial potential for UK firms.

- Liberal Democrats want greater access to capital and support for smaller businesses to **transform research achievements into market successes** – a market-driven approach creating partnerships of private sector organisations and member states to bring together the resources needed.

Supporting project bonds for vital infrastructure

- Liberal Democrats will support the European Investment Bank (EIB) initiative to develop European project bonds in order to **speed up vital infrastructure development** and benefit the UK's financial services industry. This will harness the EIB's ability to fund lending at lower rates, create less reliance on banks and generate greater use of capital markets. It will enable the development of newer sources of energy and energy grids and the improvement of broadband networks, which are currently constrained by lack of capital, stimulating sustainable jobs and growth across the UK.

Crime and justice:

Fighting cross-border crime, defending your rights abroad

Crime doesn't stop at borders. Criminal gangs, drug smugglers and human traffickers cross borders so Liberal Democrats believe that law enforcement must cross borders too. British police need European Union crime-fighting organisations such as Europol which helps coordinate the fight against cross-border criminal gangs and smashed the world's largest online paedophile network, rescuing 28 vulnerable children in the UK. The European Arrest Warrant was used to bring failed 21 July London bomber Hussain Osman back to the UK from Italy in only 2 months to face justice. Prior to the EAW, such an extradition could have taken years. We want greater co-operation to fight more crime; less co-operation will only benefit criminals.

When you're abroad, we want your basic civil liberties to travel with you. Liberal Democrats want to ensure that if you are a victim of crime or if you are arrested in another EU country, you enjoy the same minimum advice, legal rights and standards of treatment as you would in the UK.

What Liberal Democrats have already achieved:

- Liberal Democrats in the Coalition successfully ensured that the UK Government committed to stay part of Europol and keep the European Arrest Warrant, despite opposition from many Conservatives and UKIP. The European Arrest Warrant has been used to **put criminals behind bars**, bringing hundreds of rapists, murderers and paedophiles back to the UK to face justice, and deporting over four thousand criminal suspects back to their own countries.
- Liberal Democrats in the European Parliament have secured European Union funding for missing **child alert systems**, enabling the widespread introduction of missing child hotlines.
- Liberal Democrats in the European Parliament successfully campaigned for new European Union laws to **crack down on human traffickers** by making sentencing tougher and improving EU police cooperation.

- Liberal Democrats in the European Parliament supported new rules that will guarantee British victims of crime in other EU countries access to **victim support** services free of charge.
- Liberal Democrats in the European Parliament backed new laws, which guarantee basic rights such as the right to good quality **English language interpretation and legal advice** for British citizens arrested in other EU countries.
- Liberal Democrats in the coalition government support UK legislation for a proportionality test and we are pushing for this to be implemented across the European Union to ensure that the European Arrest Warrant is **not used for petty crimes** and minor offences and so that it can be refused where there is a possibility that a defendant's rights could be violated.

How Liberal Democrats want to fight more crime and protect your rights

Fighting more crime

- Liberal Democrats in the European Parliament will press for a European Union **missing child alert system** to be implemented fast to ensure that an EU-wide effort is co-ordinated and carried out with immediate effect when a child goes missing.
- We will support measures to **combat cross-border fraud, corruption and tax evasion**. Liberal Democrats welcome the European Commission's new proposal on fighting money laundering and will work to secure its speedy implementation.
- Liberal Democrats in the European Parliament agree with the UK Missing Persons Bureau that a **European Union database of unidentified bodies** should be set up to help families searching for missing loved ones.
- Liberal Democrats in the European Parliament will support the work of the new **European Cyber Crime Centre (EC3)**, which is based within Europol to help coordinate our defences with our European partners against the increasing number of cyber-attacks that threaten our security.

- Liberal Democrats want the **worldwide protection of children online** to be a priority for the European Union and will back continued engagement with business and organisations active online to promote self-regulation and action to protect children and young users of the internet.
- Liberal Democrats will work to extend the European Union's **criminal record information system** (ECRIS) so that our police have better information about potential suspects, while respecting individuals' privacy, irrespective of their nationality.

Upholding your rights

- We support UK participation in further measures to ensure that if they are caught up in criminal proceedings in other EU countries, **Britons get fair treatment and a fair trial.**
- Liberal Democrats support the European Arrest Warrant as an essential crime-fighting tool – but it has to be used proportionately. We support its use for the arrest and conviction of suspects, not simply to interview individuals as witnesses.
- Liberal Democrats support the full implementation of 'Eurobail' to **allow British citizens who have been arrested in another European country to serve their bail back in the UK** rather than having to face lengthy pre-trial detention abroad, as was the case for Andrew Symeou who was detained in Greece for two years before being proved innocent.
- Liberal Democrats want the UK to re-join the European Union system of transfer of non-custodial sentences such as probation, so that **British citizens serving community sentences in other countries can be transferred back to the UK** to complete their sentence.

Strengthening the rule of law

- Countries have to meet strict criteria on the rule of law, democratic processes and civil liberties before becoming a member of the European Union. This has helped remarkable **transitions from**

dictatorship to democracy in Spain, Portugal, Greece and the former communist countries of eastern Europe.

- Liberal Democrats want a stronger system for ensuring that member states **maintain high standards in the rule of law, human rights and democracy** after they join the European Union.

The environment:

Protecting the environment and creating green growth

Climate change and environmental degradation come at a huge economic and social cost – but tackling them represents a huge business opportunity. Investments in green technology in China and the US already outstrip those in Europe. Liberal Democrats recognise that being part of the European Union gives us a much bigger market for British ‘clean tech’ exports, and a bigger pool of resources to invest in research and innovation. Ambitious EU environmental targets will benefit the UK by bringing more green growth and green jobs.

Tackling climate change and protecting the environment are longstanding Liberal Democrat priorities. We were the first major UK party to call for a legally binding international climate change treaty. And because pollution shows no respect for national boundaries, we want to do even more to work with our European neighbours to protect the seas, rivers, countryside and atmosphere. And when Europe sets strong environmental standards for the rest of the world to follow, it gives our green businesses a competitive advantage on the world stage as well.

What Liberal Democrats have already achieved

- Liberal Democrats in the European Parliament and in the coalition government have been instrumental in agreeing new standards on **energy efficiency**. These will unlock investments in energy saving technologies, secure dramatic reductions in energy waste and **reduce energy bills**.
- At a time of rising fuel bills, Liberal Democrats in the European Parliament have helped to introduce **ambitious fuel efficiency standards for cars and vans**. These will reduce oil imports and save money for individuals and businesses alike.
- Liberal Democrat Minister Ed Davey has been leading European governments in promoting a 40% reduction target for greenhouse gas emissions in the European Union by 2030, in the face of tough opposition from less environmentally-concerned parties.

- Thanks to the Lib Dems in the coalition government, the UK is now world leading in terms of attracting investment for offshore wind, second for biomass and fifth globally for renewables overall.
- Liberal Democrats supported the creation of the European Union's Emissions Trading Scheme for greenhouse gases, the biggest of its kind in the world and vital for **encouraging business to combat climate change** and generate low carbon growth.
- Liberal Democrats backed the strong European Union position in world climate change talks, first establishing the Kyoto Protocol and then in 2011 a remarkable **global commitment to agree a new climate treaty**, including every country in the world.
- Liberal Democrats strongly backed the European Union's **measures to keep illegal timber out of the international trade** – helping to reduce global deforestation, fighting climate change and ensuring poor countries benefit from sustainable forest management.

How Liberal Democrats want the European Union to do even more to protect the environment

Creating more green jobs

- The renewable energy sector now employs three times as many people as the UK coal industry and could create around **200,000 new jobs over the next decade**.
- At a time of austerity, Liberal Democrats will work for European Union **investment in low-carbon solutions** to be used more efficiently with better understanding and more effective use of the money already available, in particular EU structural funds for energy efficiency.
- Liberal Democrats in the European Parliament will push for more **international grid connections** between European countries, including Britain and France, to ensure we can meet our climate change goals faster and at a lower cost. A European SuperGrid would bring the UK lower bills and better value from its renewable resources by more efficiently sharing energy resources, standby reserves and variable power sources like wind.

More ambitious climate change and energy policy

- The need to combat climate change is more urgent than ever. Liberal Democrats believe the European Union should follow the UK's lead in its long-term climate change policy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 50% by 2030. This will give long-term certainty to investors in low-carbon technologies, encourage industrial innovation and give Europe much greater clout in the global climate change negotiations scheduled to conclude in 2015.
- The European Union's Emissions Trading System (ETS), the first and biggest carbon market in the world, urgently needs reform. Liberal Democrats want an **urgent strengthening of the ETS** mechanism, with increased flexibility to respond to economic change and deal with the current excess of carbon allowances, sending a consistent, strong, and positive message to investors.
- Liberal Democrats will continue to support ambitious energy efficiency policy at European level as it is key to **sustainability, competitiveness and energy security**. Studies show that the biggest cost-effective potential lies with buildings. We will therefore support **future EU policies that will make our homes greener, warmer and cheaper to heat**.
- Liberal Democrats will push for **better European energy labelling** to encourage the production and sale of more efficient appliances. We also want to introduce **tighter emissions standards for cars and vans** to cut CO₂, reduce reliance on imported oil and put money back into drivers' pockets.
- We will continue to support the development of **carbon capture and storage** technology to make clean use of fossil fuels like coal and to reduce emissions from industrial processes such as cement manufacture.

More renewable energy

- Renewable energy is the UK's biggest national energy resource, and has already brought over 35,000 jobs to the UK economy, many in areas of high unemployment. Efficient exploitation of offshore wind requires co-operation and co-ordination with other North Sea countries. Liberal Democrats want to see a **positive, stable long-term European policy supporting the development and deployment of renewables** to maximise opportunities for UK investors, British businesses in the supply chain and green jobs.
- Liberal Democrats want to encourage the research and production of **truly sustainable biofuels** such as those created from grasses or waste. The current subsidies for transport biofuels produced from crops that compete with food production ('first generation' biofuels such as palm oil) push up global food prices and drive deforestation and should not continue beyond 2020.

More protection for the natural environment

- World-wide, economies and human well-being depend critically on the health of the natural environment; the costs of biodiversity loss and ecosystem damage are estimated to reach 18 per cent of global economic output by 2050. Liberal Democrats support the revision of EU development policies to support the international goal of at least **halving the rate of loss of all natural habitats** by 2020.
- Europe imports commodities from overseas such as timber, palm oil, metals, minerals and fossil fuels, which can cause significant environmental destruction in their countries of production. Liberal Democrats want to **encourage sustainable consumption** in European Union member states, for example by improving resource efficiency and using public procurement policies and other measures to source sustainable commodities.
- We will argue for the European Union to support the target of **halting net deforestation worldwide by 2020** and to draw up an action plan on agriculture, deforestation and trade. We will also push for more effective action to combat the widespread illegal trade in wildlife, fish

and timber, including plugging the loopholes in the EU Timber Regulation.

- The European Union and its countries – led by Britain – provide significant aid to developing countries. Liberal Democrats want the European Union to **withdraw development aid for environmentally harmful technologies** and invest more in clean energy generation. This will support UK green business and meet existing international commitments to help poorer nations with climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The financial system:

Building a stronger and fairer economy

The recent financial crisis affected every country in Europe, large and small, rich and poor. While the Coalition Government in the UK has had to take the tough decisions needed to build a safer financial system and a stronger economy at home, the crisis also showed that financial instability crosses borders. We need the Euro-zone to take some tough decisions. We need common rules across Europe to tackle the problems within the wider financial system, rather than 28 different national responses.

Liberal Democrats believe that sustainable prosperity will always be at risk without a stable financial system and that the UK should show the way as a global leader in financial services – a position that can only be maintained while we remain part of the European Union. The challenges ahead are to ensure stability and to maximise the potential of our financial sector to create jobs and growth across the UK. We also need to achieve greater fairness in taxation, particularly when it comes to large multinationals that should not take advantage of cross-border tax loopholes and avoid paying tax in countries where they are making large profits.

What Liberal Democrats have already achieved

- Liberal Democrats in the European Parliament led by Sharon Bowles MEP (chair of the Parliament's influential Economic and Monetary Committee) have been instrumental in creating new rules, which are making banks and other financial industries safer by restricting risky practices, and ensuring they hold more money in reserves so that they, rather than the taxpayer, cover their losses should problems arise.
- Liberal Democrats in the European Parliament helped push through **reforms that will help small businesses gain crucial loans from banks** as well as raise money from specific small business stock markets and venture capital funds.
- Liberal Democrats in the European Parliament successfully campaigned for the introduction of **new tax transparency for**

multinationals, including banks and extractive industries, to show how much tax they pay in different countries. This will help to ensure that businesses pay their way in poorer but resource-rich countries.

- **New rules on bankers' bonuses**, pushed by Liberal Democrats in the European Parliament, have been introduced which will restrict the potential for huge payoffs for failed bankers. **No more rewards for failure.**
- Nearly 50% of the UK's trade is with the rest of the European Union and our banks have exposures of £268 billion to Euro-zone countries. Liberal Democrats have been at the forefront of efforts to pass **new rules to stabilise the Euro-zone** to prevent a future crisis which could threaten the British economy.

How Liberal Democrats want to build a safer, stronger financial system

Creating a safer financial system

- Liberal Democrats will continue to work to create a **safer financial sector** and ensure better quality of regulation in order to protect the economy, businesses and jobs.

Making finance work for jobs and growth

- In the UK, our businesses are too reliant on banks, which provide 80% of lending for small and medium-sized companies. This has had a serious effect on business financing and the creation of jobs as companies have struggled to secure lending from banks crippled by the economic crisis. Liberal Democrats will support **alternatives to short term bank financing for small and medium sized companies** through long term funding designed to provide stable and secure business lending.

Tax justice

- Multinational companies should operate on a level playing field with local businesses by paying their fair share of taxes. Liberal Democrats will continue to press at European and international level for new rules that will force **large companies to pay fair taxes to the countries in which they operate**. Action at only the national level cannot tackle this international problem.

Fairer banking

- Liberal Democrats are working to secure **clear and understandable EU-wide information** documents explaining the associated risks and costs when buying a wide-range of financial products such as life insurance.
- Liberal Democrats are fighting for **fairer rules that will clamp down on manipulation of energy and financial markets** as exposed by the LIBOR scandal and Brent Oil fixing investigation, ensuring fairer mortgage repayments and fuel prices for consumers.
- Under European Union rules, transfers of money between bank accounts in different Euro-zone countries do not face any transaction charges. Liberal Democrats will campaign to extend this system to the UK and other non-Euro-zone European countries which will **help British citizens, including those living in other EU countries who want to send money to and receive money from the UK**, such as students, British citizens working abroad and retired family-members.

Helping our neighbours stabilise the Euro

- Liberal Democrats are committed to **help stabilise the Euro** and ensure that it succeeds. The UK's economic recovery relies on a stable and prosperous Euro-zone.
- Liberal Democrats believe it will **not be in the British national interest to join the Euro** in the foreseeable future.

Consumer rights:

A better, fairer deal for consumers

Consumer protection is a cornerstone of the European Union single market. Businesses benefit from a single set of reliable rules across 28 countries. Consumers have reaped huge benefits from cheaper goods and services, more choice, higher protection for rail and air travellers and cheaper mobile phone charges when abroad.

Liberal Democrats are committed to improving consumer protection across the European Union further – something we could never guarantee if we left. We want British citizens to enjoy the same high standards of protection whether they buy goods from Sheffield or Stockholm and whether they travel to Blackpool or Benidorm.

What Liberal Democrats have already achieved:

- Liberal Democrats in the European Parliament, in the face of UKIP opposition, have helped secure an **80% reduction since 2007 in call, SMS and data charges on your mobile phone** when travelling in other EU countries. Data roaming alone is 91% cheaper than in 2007.
- Liberal Democrats in the European Parliament were instrumental in securing **new laws that ended hidden holiday charges** and ensure that the full price is clear from the outset when you book flights or holidays online, that you have a right to a refund within 14 days and that you aren't hit with excessive charges when using a credit card.
- Liberal Democrats in the European Parliament campaigned alongside the UK charity Guide Dogs for the introduction of alert systems on electric vehicles to **keep blind people safe on the road** by ensuring that these near-silent vehicles create a noise which allows the blind and visually impaired to hear them approaching.
- Liberal Democrats have successfully safeguarded the European Union's 'Safer Internet' programme, which works with the industry to promote a **safer online environment** for internet users by raising public awareness, fighting illegal content and tackling harmful conduct

online while spreading knowledge about internet safety across Europe.

- Liberal Democrats supported reforms of European Union tobacco rules that will introduce **mandatory health warnings** on 65% of the surface of packages of cigarettes and rolling tobacco.

How Liberal Democrats want to make your consumer rights even stronger

Ending the roaming rip-off altogether

- Liberal Democrats will campaign to **abolish mobile phone roaming charges** once and for all so that when you go on holiday in Europe, you will be able to call friends and family or search the Internet for no more than you are charged in the UK.

Protecting you when you go on holiday

- Liberal Democrats support greater protection of holidaymakers' rights to **compensation if your holiday company goes bust** or if the holiday they provide doesn't live up to expectations.
- Liberal Democrats will work to ensure that you are **fully protected when you fly** by introducing measures that mean airlines will no longer be able to avoid paying out compensation through excuses like mechanical problems that could have been prevented and are obliged to explain to passengers why they are being delayed more than half an hour, putting an end to uncertain and frustrating waits sitting on the runway or in the departure lounge.

Keeping consumers healthy

- The horsemeat scandal has shown there is an urgent need for **higher standards of food inspections** across the European Union. The Liberal Democrats will support better country of origin food labelling, the publication of inspection reports and ratings and EU-wide alerts where there are cases of suspected malpractice.

Easier compensation

- At the moment it is difficult for consumers to gain **adequate compensation when people suffer losses** due to malpractice, such as when JJB Sports were guilty of fixing the price of replica England shirts sold to consumers. We will support new rules that will make it easier for consumers to take cases together, reduce the number of court cases and cut costs for the claimants.

Better consumer protection online

- Liberal Democrats will push for the European Union to take a lead in worldwide co-ordinated action to **tackle issues relating to online gambling** such as tax avoidance, match fixing, money laundering and under-age participation.

Better protection for animals

- Liberal Democrats will support the introduction of a new comprehensive animal welfare law to promote the **highest possible standards of animal welfare** across the European Union. This would address wildlife trafficking into the European Union, and establish minimum standards on the breeding and sale of cats and dogs.

Agriculture, rural development and fisheries:

A more sustainable future for rural communities and businesses

The natural wealth of our countryside provides for us and is vital to our future growth and wellbeing. The total value of such natural resources to the UK economy was nearly £35 billion in 2011. Yet this is threatened by climate change, which has led to increasing pressure on water resources across Europe. By 2007, at least 11% of Europe's population and 17% of its territory had been affected by water scarcity. The World Economic Forum highlights water security as one of the top five risks for business leaders over the next 10 years, threatening jobs and livelihoods.

Liberal Democrats believe comprehensive and sustainable policies are needed in order to address these problems. We endorse support for rural communities and businesses specifically in order to protect the natural environment and enhance biodiversity, landscape and heritage, water management and local economic activity including tourism.

What Liberal Democrats have already achieved

- Liberal Democrats in the European Parliament have strongly backed **reform of the European Union's Common Agricultural Policy**. More than half of Common Agricultural Policy funds will now be directed towards environmental services and tackling climate change. Both farmers and national governments will have to focus on more sustainable land management. Overall, the Common Agricultural Policy used to account for 75% of the European Union budget. In 2012, it was just 41%. Farm support has been rationalised across the European Union, phasing out almost all historical or production payments. Environmental enhancement by farmers will now be mandatory.
- Liberal Democrats delivered **reform of the Common Fisheries Policy**, which will rebuild fish stocks, put an end to discards, devolve day-to-day decision making to regional bodies involving fishermen and scientists, and ensure that Europe has a sustainable fishing policy for the future, which will enable fishing communities in the UK to thrive.

- Liberal Democrats in the European Parliament have successfully negotiated **changes to EU rules on everything from lorry heights to quad bikes** that would have burdened rural businesses with unreasonable costs. And we secured exemptions for small livestock trailers and fast tractors from MOT tests.
- Liberal Democrats in the European Parliament delivered rules for an **improved and more cost-efficient meat hygiene inspection** system, balancing the desire to ensure a high standard of food quality with the need to protect the farming community from unduly burdensome regulation.

How Liberal Democrats in the European Parliament want to do more for rural communities

More reform of the Common Agricultural Policy

- Liberal Democrats want continued reform of the Common Agricultural Policy, eliminating the remaining production and export subsidies and developing new ways to ensure environmentally sustainable solutions to the growing demand for food. We want more devolution in agricultural policy, ensuring **continued support for rural communities, particularly upland and less favoured areas**, and a mid-term review in 2017.
- We want to **protect funding for research into sustainable food production, climate change and water management** and for it to be transferred to the European Union's research programme.
- Liberal Democrats will push for more flexibility and a much wider menu of environmental options, and for **more research into a more sustainable model of agriculture**, which could improve water and soil management through payment for environmental services.

A more sustainable fishing industry

- Liberal Democrats want to see **a more sustainable fishing industry** in the UK both for fishing communities and for our future food supplies. The recovery of fish stocks is a priority. European Marine Sites protect some of Europe's most important marine and coastal habitats and important European species. They should be expanded across the European Union in line with the current UK Marine Conservation Zones, first established in 2010.
- Liberal Democrats support a 100% **ban on the discard of edible and other usable fish**.
- The UK should assess the appropriate distribution of fishing opportunities between large scale and small-scale operators.
- Liberal Democrats want tougher **enforcement of European Union fishing rules by all member states**, with UK inspectors encouraged to play a full role in the European Fishing Control Agency, and ensure the EU regulations designed to curb the import of products from illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing activities are fully enforced.

Europe and the world:

Stronger together in a changing world

The world is changing fast. Economic power is shifting. Countries such as China, India and Brazil are taking their place on the world stage. Economic competition will get tougher, and rising powers will push for greater political recognition. The United States, guarantor of European security since the Second World War, is increasingly turning its attention and resources to Asia.

The globalisation of technology, trade, people and ideas continues to make the world a smaller place. The fall-out from instability in far-flung corners of the world can quickly affect us at home. Increasingly, the world will feel the effects of environmental degradation and climate change and the poorest will be hit hardest.

If European countries like Britain are to be heard in this turbulent world of economic and political giants, they must act together far more effectively using the European Union's full military, diplomatic, economic, and developmental potential. Liberal Democrats believe that the European Union can champion security, freedom and democracy in our foreign, defence and security policy, alongside the UN, NATO and our key partnerships with allies such as the United States and France. Concerted European action can make a difference and, when it speaks with one voice, the European Union can be a powerful force for good in the world.

What Liberal Democrats have already achieved

- Liberal Democrats emphasised the need for a **strong and united European Union response to Russia over the crisis in Ukraine** including long-term plans to reduce Europe's use of Russian energy
- Liberal Democrats strongly supported the European role in brokering **landmark deals between Serbia and Kosovo, and with Iran** over its controversial nuclear programme.
- Liberal Democrats campaigned for an **end to human rights abuses in Burma** and backed European Union sanctions, which have led to fundamental political reforms.

- Liberal Democrats have supported the European Union in bringing **greater security to Africa**, including successful missions in Sudan and Mali.
- Liberal Democrats strongly supported the EU's Atalanta naval task force, which is now **fighting piracy** off Somalia under British command, protecting trade and bringing greater safety and security to the high seas.
- Liberal Democrats in the European Parliament supported the development of European **aid to some of the poorest and most vulnerable people in more than 100 countries**. Europe now allocates up to £1.2 billion a year to water, sanitation and hygiene projects alone, saving millions of lives.
- Liberal Democrats in the coalition government in the UK have set an example to other member states by **meeting the long-standing target of spending 0.7% of gross national income on development assistance**.
- Liberal Democrats have paved the way for **sanctions against individuals working for oppressive regimes** to prevent them benefiting from health, leisure and investment services in the European Union.
- Liberal Democrats want all women to enjoy a life free from violence. Lib Dem Minister Lynne Featherstone has pushed the issue of female genital mutilation to the top of the Government's agenda here in the UK while Liberal Democrats in the European Parliament have helped to deliver over **£6.5 million of European Union funding to help tackle female genital mutilation**. Our voice in the EU is making people take notice of violence against women all over the world.

How Liberal Democrats would help to build a safer and more democratic world

- Liberal Democrats believe that the **promotion of human rights and democracy** should be the common thread at the heart of European foreign policy.
- Liberal Democrats want to see a more effective European Union foreign policy, building **more security and democracy in Europe's neighbourhood** through strong common positions, and better strategy and coordination.
- Liberal Democrats believe that **deeper defence co-operation** is vital if European powers are to retain significant military capabilities. The European Defence Agency, in co-operation with NATO, should play a central role in helping states to pool and share military capabilities. The UK Parliament should always have the final say on the British use of force.
- Liberal Democrats support further enlargement of the European Union to candidate countries. Membership of the European Union continues to hold out the best hope of lasting peace and stability in the Western Balkans. All candidate countries, including Turkey, must meet stringent conditions, including **strengthening democracy and human rights before gaining membership**. There should be appropriate transitional arrangements for all new member states.
- Liberal Democrats believe that the European Union must do more to build a **firm and effective common policy on Russia**, emphasising human rights and developing common energy policies to avoid overdependence. We should work together to **encourage China to play a responsible role in world affairs**, as well as strengthening economic and trading ties.

Development assistance

- Liberal Democrats will press for all EU policies that affect **the poorest countries in the world**, including trade and agriculture, to take account of development priorities.
- Liberal Democrats believe the European Union can do even more to avoid costly duplication, for instance by providing key infrastructure

projects which are difficult for member states to support individually, such as the building of roads in developing countries. We want the EU to **work with developing countries to share expertise and funding** on issues that affect whole regions such as migration, security, infrastructure development and trade.

- Liberal Democrats want all information about **all European aid to meet the International Aid Transparency Initiative standard**.
- Development must focus on **fairness and the public good, not just economic growth**. Liberal Democrats will press for European development assistance to **uphold the rights of the poorest and most vulnerable groups like women and girls, older people and those with disabilities**; to recognize environmental threats like climate change, pollution and the loss of biodiversity; and to encourage common approaches to medical diagnosis, information and treatment in developing countries, helping to protect us all from global pandemics.

European Union membership and reform:

Yes to European Union membership, yes to reform

Liberal Democrats support giving the British people the opportunity to vote on European Union membership through an 'in' or 'out' referendum in the event of proposals for any further significant transfer of powers from the UK to the European Union.

Liberal Democrats will campaign for an 'in' vote because it is overwhelmingly in Britain's national interest to stay in and pursue the policies on jobs, crime and the environment outlined in this manifesto.

Liberal Democrats believe the European Union needs reform, just as the British political system needs reform. The European Union needs to focus on those issues which cut across national boundaries and where countries need to work together to succeed. Reform must be for the whole European Union, not just for Britain's unilateral interest. Liberal Democrat Members of the European Parliament and our ministers and Members of Parliament in Westminster will continue to campaign to make the European Union more efficient and accountable, and to maximise British influence across Europe.

Our position is straightforward: yes to membership of the European Union; yes to reform; yes to an in/out referendum.

What Liberal Democrats have already achieved

- Liberal Democrats are proud of their excellent track record and reputation in the European Parliament, recognised by the Daily Mail as the “**hardest working British party**”.
- At a time of austerity across Europe, Liberal Democrats helped push through the first ever **reduction in the European Union budget by £30 billion**. Liberal Democrat Members of the European Parliament have also worked hard to cut parliamentarians' expenses, including travel allowances for elected Members of the European Parliament, and reduce staff numbers across the European Union institutions.
- Liberal Democrats in the coalition government have commissioned a **groundbreaking review of the powers of the European Union**. This review has highlighted specific areas where EU rules could be re-visited such as the application of the working time directive to the

NHS while demonstrating that in many cases the balance of powers is broadly right and of huge benefit to the UK, such as with the EU single market.

- Liberal Democrat Members of the European Parliament were instrumental in securing **important new safeguards** that mean Euro-zone banking rules that affect the UK will have to be approved by the UK and other countries outside the Euro-zone.
- Liberal Democrats in the coalition government and in the European Parliament successfully campaigned for devolving the day to day running of fishing policy to advisory councils, **allowing for a crucial say to those working in the fishing industry**, scientists and other expert stakeholders.

How Liberal Democrats will reform the European Union and give people their say

An In/Out referendum

- Liberal Democrats in the Coalition Government supported the European Union Act 2011, which will ensure that, **in the event of proposals for any further significant transfer of powers from the UK to the EU, there will be a referendum.**
- Liberal Democrats want this referendum to be an **in or out referendum**, giving every British citizen a say on British membership of the European Union.
- **Liberal Democrats will campaign strongly for the UK to remain in the European Union** when that referendum comes. Staying in the European Union is the best way forward for British jobs, fighting cross-border crime, protecting the environment, championing consumer rights and for Britain's standing and influence in the world.

Cutting waste

- Liberal Democrats will continue to campaign to bring an **end to the wasteful travel between the European Parliament cities** of Brussels, Luxembourg and Strasbourg required by the present Treaty. This will save £150m and almost 20,000 tonnes of CO2 emissions annually.

- We want to build on the savings already achieved and push for **further reductions in European Union administrative costs** including through cuts to travel and transport budgets.
- Liberal Democrats support an **audit of existing European Union agencies** and institutions to find ways to rationalise and collaborate over back-office functions in order to find savings including the abolition of the Economic and Social Committee.

Protecting the UK's influence in the single market

- As the Euro-zone countries plan changes in their relationship through the planned Banking Union, **we must protect British influence** in single market decision-making, which could affect thousands of British companies and millions of British jobs. We can only do this as a full member of the European Union.
- Liberal Democrats will call for a guarantee in the next European Union treaty that **member states both inside and outside the Euro-zone have a full voice** in the regulation and application of the single market.

Strengthening scrutiny at Westminster

- National parliaments should play a greater role in scrutinising European Union rules. Liberal Democrats want reform to ensure better co-ordination of **scrutiny by national parliaments** and establish stronger links between chairs of national parliamentary and departmental committees and the European Parliament.
- We support reform of the House of Commons scrutiny system to ensure that Members of Parliament **hold government ministers better to account** for the decisions they take in Brussels. We support the introduction of regular European Union question times, for ministers to report back to MPs both before and after Council meetings and for expert House of Commons select committees to lead the scrutiny of European legislation in their specialist areas.
- We believe the Prime Minister should make a statement to the House of Commons setting out the objectives of the government **before**

each European Council meeting, **giving British MPs a chance to influence the position taken by the British government** in Europe.

Promoting British talent in Brussels

- The UK has a poor record at getting British citizens recruited into the institutions of the European Union, and is currently the most underrepresented of any country. Less than 5% of European Commission staff come from the UK despite the fact that we have over 12% of the European Union's population. Liberal Democrats strongly support **more active encouragement of potential UK candidates**, as well as better training, particularly in foreign languages, mentoring and networking for UK candidates in European Union recruitment processes.

Fairness and opportunity:

Promoting people, education and free movement

Because the United Kingdom is a member of the European Union, British citizens have unparalleled opportunities to live, study, train and work abroad. The UK's economic future lies in developing the potential of its young people and Liberal Democrats believe it is crucial to cultivate the skills of our young to learn foreign languages and gain work experience in other countries.

As many as 2.2 million British citizens already live in other EU countries – from students in Prague to retirees in Spain to young families in France. Our economy benefits greatly from the contribution of citizens from other countries of the European Union working in the UK and we want to attract the best and brightest people to the UK.

What Liberal Democrats have achieved already

- Liberal Democrats have **defended the European Convention on Human Rights** and the European Union Charter of Fundamental Rights against attempts to undermine these important standards of human rights across Europe by right-wing opponents.
- Liberal Democrat Members of the European Parliament have backed full implementation of European Union law which **bans discrimination against women in the workplace**. We are campaigning against unequal pay and for better representation of women in Europe's boardrooms.
- Liberal Democrats in the coalition government led the fight for **equal marriage** in the UK. Liberal Democrats in the European Parliament have supported equal marriage across Europe, as well as calling for the mutual recognition of marriages and civil partnerships between different EU countries.
- Liberal Democrats in the European Parliament supported the expansion of the Erasmus programme, which allows students to study and train abroad and which will enable thousands more British students to study in other EU countries in the coming years.

- Liberal Democrats in the European Parliament fought for the introduction of a Masters Degree loan guarantee scheme, which will enable British students to take out low-interest loans of up to **£15,000 to undertake postgraduate research studies across the European Union.**

How the Liberal Democrats will support fairness and opportunity

Equality and non-discrimination

- Liberal Democrats will continue to support equal opportunities for all, **reject anti-Semitism, Islamophobia and all forms of racism and xenophobia.** We will continue to work towards better representation of women and ethnic minorities in both the public and private sectors.
- Liberal Democrats will keep campaigning **against homophobia** and discrimination against LGBTI people throughout Europe and the world. We continue to urge all European Union countries to offer asylum to those fleeing persecution because of their sexuality or gender identity.

Improving skills and encouraging aspiration

- Young people in the UK take far less advantage of European Union schemes for studying and working abroad than other EU countries. Liberal Democrats will encourage government and universities to fully **publicise the opportunities available and encourage uptake from British students.**
- Liberal Democrats will **encourage learning and skills by campaigning** for periods spent learning in another EU country, for example under the new Erasmus+ scheme, to count as time served in apprenticeship.
- We want to see the British government capitalise on funding available to **give students and young people more opportunities.** We want to see the number of vocational students able to spend part of their education and training abroad and teachers, trainers and youth workers receiving funding to teach or train abroad double in the 2013-2020 period.

Encouraging Free and Fair Movement

- Liberal Democrats will continue to support the **right to free movement across the European Union**, which is a fundamental part of the EU single market. Free movement has brought huge benefits to British citizens and to the British economy. Migrants into the UK from other EU countries are estimated to have contributed 34% more in taxes than they receive in benefits or public services.
- We support **fair rules to underpin free movement**. Liberal Democrats have worked hard in government **to ensure that the benefits system is not abused by anyone, wherever they come from**. We support the coalition government's plans to strengthen the Habitual Residence Test, as well as the proposal to support an EU framework to extend the period from three to six months that an EU citizen coming to the UK to look for work would have to rely on the benefits system of their home country as would British citizens looking for work in another EU country. This will help ensure that the cost of job seeking claimants falls on the country of origin rather than the country where they are looking for work.
- There is currently a lack of information about the nationality of people claiming benefits in the UK, which has fuelled an uninformed debate. Liberal Democrats support the **inclusion of a nationality box in the Universal Credit claiming form** so that the government can produce comprehensive statistics.
- The UK's tourism and service industries are losing out on valuable income from non-EU tourists because they often opt to only purchase the visa that only gives them access to the 26 European countries which are part of the Schengen Agreement, but not to the UK. Liberal Democrats believe that the high standards of pre-entry checks should not be compromised but we would ask the UK Visas and Immigration to create a **streamlined, fast track process** for those applicants that have already been issued a Schengen visa.

The Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe

The Liberal Democrats are working to create a stronger economy and a fairer society in the UK. We are also members of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe, an international family of liberal political parties that is working for reform and democracy in the European Parliament and across Europe. Unlike some other British parties who have cut their European links, Liberal Democrats believe in promoting British influence by working together with like-minded friends across the continent, including a dozen parties in government in their respective countries.

Neos – Das Neue Österreich
Austria

Mouvement Réformateur
Belgium

Open Vlaamse Liberalen en Democraten
Belgium

Partei für Freiheit und Fortschritt
Belgium

Dvizhenie za prava i svobodi
Bulgaria

Nacionalno dviženie za stabilnost i vāzhod
Bulgaria

Hrvatska narodna stranka - Liberalni demokrati
Croatia

Hrvatska socijalno liberalna stranka
Croatia

Istarski demokratski sabor/Dieta democratica istriana
Croatia

Det Radikale Venstre
Denmark

Venstre Danmarks Liberale Parti
Denmark

Eesti Keskerakond
Estonia

Eesti Reformierakond
Estonia

Centern
Finland

Suomen Keskusta
Finland

Svenska folkpartiet i Finland/Suomen ruotsalainen kansanpuolue
Finland

Freie Demokratische Partei
Germany

Drassi
Greece

Fianna Fáil
Ireland

Italia dei Valori
Italy

Radicali italiani
Italy

Darbo Partija
Lithuania

Liberalų ir centro sąjunga
Lithuania

Liberalų Sąjūdis
Lithuania

Demokratesch Partei
Luxembourg

Partidul National Liberal
Romania

Sloboda a Solidarita
Slovakia

Državljanska Lista
Slovenia

Liberalna Demokracija Slovenije
Slovenia

Pozitivna Slovenija
Slovenia

Zares - socialno liberalni
Slovenia

Convergència Democràtica de Catalunya
Spain

Centerpartiet
Sweden

Folkpartiet Liberalerna
Sweden

Democraten 66
The Netherlands

Volkspartij voor Vrijheid en Democratie
The Netherlands

Liberal Democrats
United Kingdom

Catherine Bearder MEP brought representatives from local small fishing fleets to Brussels to present their case for the vital importance small fleets have in their local communities and for the sustainability of fish stocks - a real breakthrough as previous talks have been dominated by the big fleets. When she is re-elected, Catherine has promised to fight for local jobs. And she adds: "I'll keep fighting against human trafficking too. Important steps have been made in this parliament but national governments need to do more to work together to tackle this truly international crime."

Phil Bennion MEP was a key player in making sure that European rules were adopted on the flight times pilots can fly, making European skies safer and providing a level playing field for UK airlines. His priorities now include the opening up of competition amongst railways across Europe to bring down the costs of rail travel for passengers, helping the economy and the environment. Phil adds: "I want to ensure principles of better regulation are central to European policy making and that Europe's single market doesn't only benefit big companies but small and medium-sized ones too"

Sharon Bowles MEP chaired the European Parliament's Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee and played a critical role in helping keep the Euro-zone intact, preventing a collapse that would have damaged the whole of Europe including the UK. She helped bring about major changes to banking legislation, including greater transparency and better terms for financing trade and small businesses. She believes Members of the European Parliament should now focus on using the strong cartel-busting powers of the European Union to stop consumers being ripped off.

Chris Davies MEP led the cross-party alliance that secured a huge majority in the European Parliament in favour of ambitious reforms to the Common Fisheries Policy that ended wasteful discards, made it a legal obligation to rebuild fish stocks, and decentralised day-to-day management of fisheries. Chris says: "The European Union must demonstrate its ability to innovate and lead or we will be left behind by fast-growing economies elsewhere. I want to promote the application of new technologies that can keep us competitive while reducing our global warming emissions. I want to ensure that our high environmental standards are applied equally and effectively in all EU countries. I want to strengthen and protect the values of freedom and justice, democracy

and good governance that lie at the heart of the European vision and can be an inspiration to the world.”

Bill Newton Dunn MEP has been a passionate advocate of greater democracy and accountability within the European Union. When he is re-elected, he will campaign for even more effective Europe-wide action to counter cross-border criminal gangs who are stealing millions of legitimate jobs and hundreds of billions of tax revenues. Bill explains why this needs to be done at a European level : “28 national governments all trying to work with each other has obvious limitations. Last year, there were just 18 cross-border co-operation teams involving the UK. Just 18 in the face of massive and growing cross-border crime! This can be tackled by more effective European crimefighting too”

Edward Macmillan-Scott MEP launched the Single Seat campaign in 2010 to end the European Parliament’s monthly trek between Brussels and Strasbourg, which wastes £150m and 19,000 tonnes of CO2 a year. His Food Sense campaign aims to focus European agricultural policy on providing an affordable, sustainable and healthy diet, while providing a stable future for our farming and fishing communities. When he’s re-elected, he wants to continue leading the fight for human rights worldwide, especially in Russia and China.

Fiona Hall MEP has campaigned to put energy saving at the heart of European policy. From 2020, new buildings across Europe will require nearly-zero energy, and car emissions will have to average only 95g/km by 2021. She believes Liberal Democrats in the next European Parliament should campaign for an ambitious package of climate and energy measures to put the European Union on track to meet demanding carbon reduction targets by 2050. She’d also like to see roaming charges for mobile phones completely abolished, protecting business travellers and holidaymakers alike from huge mobile phone bills.

Sarah Ludford MEP, as an ardent opponent of the death penalty, securing a ban on the export of anaesthetics which were being used to carry out US death sentences, forcing the EU to match its words about opposing the death penalty with tough action. “When I’m re-elected” says Sarah “ I want ensure London keeps benefitting from European co-operation on trade, cross-border crime and the environment. I will push for the trade deal with the USA that could boost London’s economy by £2 billion. I will continue my fight to improve standards of justice

across Europe by pushing for reform of the European Arrest Warrant so that it is used fairly and proportionately. On the environment, I want to ensure European air quality rules aren't weakened"

Angelika Schneider, Liberal Democrat candidate for the European Parliament, wants to follow other Lib Dem MEPs who have successfully championed jobs in their regions. She says: "my number one priority when I'm elected will be promoting the North East as an ideal place to invest and create sustainable local jobs. I want jobs protected in key industries like the chemicals and steel industry on Teesside and I'll work to create confidence in major companies like Nissan and Hitachi who are investing millions locally and creating thousands of local jobs directly and in their supply chains across the region. And I want to promote tourism in Northumberland and County Durham which employs thousands of local people".

Andrew Duff MEP has been involved in many critical negotiations which have helped to strengthen democratic accountability within the European Union over recent years. As a member of the European Parliament's constitutional committee, he works to improve transparency and citizen participation in European politics and has strongly promoted co-operation with national parliaments – complementing the work of the UK's Liberal Democrat MPs who are campaigning to improve the scrutiny of European decisions by the UK parliament. Andrew is also involved in the EU's enlargement process which encourages applicant states like Turkey to improve their human rights record, strengthen the rule of law and protect minorities . At home, Andrew is keen to promote the East of England as Europe's hot spot for science research. Andrew says: "I want the UK fully involved in all decision-making about the future of the European Union, not sidelined into secondclass."

Alec Dauncey, Welsh Liberal Democrat candidate for the European Parliament, is keen to represent Wales in the European Parliament. Wales has benefited massively from Britain's EU membership, Alec wants to see jobs safeguarded in a stronger Welsh economy taking advantage of Britain's place in the EU. A forester, passionate about the environment, he is convinced that dangerous climate change can only be avoided if countries work together. He wants to see the Common Agricultural Policy go on supporting farming communities in Wales and increasingly benefiting wildlife and landscape. Alec says: UKIP and the Conservatives are spreading dangerous uncertainty about

Britain's place in an uncertain world, Plaid Cymru question Wales's place in the UK, Labour are avoiding the issue. Only the Liberal Democrats are arguing clearly for Wales and Britain in a Europe which works for people, secures our economy and our place in the world.

Liberal Democrats
Stronger Economy Fairer Society

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