



SNP

Make Scotland's mark in Europe

Our social priorities for Europe

Scotland benefits hugely from being a part of the European Union – our membership has helped create and support thousands of jobs across the country. We also benefit from the positive relationship we have built with our neighbours and being an active part of the EU enables us to support and campaign for progressive social policies across the EU.

Scotland and the EU have worked as partners for over 40 years and Scotland brings as much to the EU as the EU contributes to Scotland. But Westminster's obsession with ripping us out of Europe is putting partnership at risk and would cost thousands of jobs across Scotland.

A vote for a strong team of SNP MEPs on the 22nd of May will ensure that Scotland makes our mark in Europe. And with a Yes vote in September, Scotland will finally have the opportunity to speak with our own voice in Europe, build on the positive relationships with our European neighbours and help push forward progressive social policies across the EU.

Decent pay for European workers – EU law currently prevents a mandatory living wage for public contract workers being set at a level higher than the statutory minimum wage. The SNP will campaign for the necessary changes in law to be made – and will continue to argue for decent minimum wages across the EU.

European Youth Guarantee – The Scottish Government has implemented Opportunities for All to ensure education or training opportunities for all 16-19 year olds not already in work, education or training. In the European Parliament the SNP will argue for full implementation of the European Youth Guarantee – and oppose the UK government's hostility towards it.

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Supporting access to higher education –

Scotland's policy on higher education funding fits comfortably into the European mainstream; policies being implemented elsewhere in the UK see students leave university with the highest debts in the EU. The SNP will continue to support our students and we will continue to back programmes such as Erasmus+.

Protecting vital public services –

Scotland's public services have been protected from both the worst excesses of the Tory-led coalition and from Labour's attacks on universal provision. Nevertheless, there remain voices in the EU who argue strongly for a privatisation agenda. Only a vote for the SNP can ensure that public services remain in public hands.

Ensuring there's no return to financial

excesses – People across Scotland and Europe as a whole have had to pay the price for mistakes of bankers and flaws in regulatory regimes. The SNP has supported banking reforms at EU level and will continue to back moves aimed at protecting the financial system from future crises.

Defending workers' rights across the EU –

The EU ensures that all workers benefit from minimum rights such as the right to collective bargaining, and fair and just working conditions. This means that Scots going to work abroad get a fair deal – as well as safeguarding the employment conditions of those who chose to move here. Unlike the Westminster parties, the SNP will work to protect workers' rights across Europe.

Promoting equality across the EU – The SNP believes that all citizens should be afforded the same opportunities regardless of race or ethnicity, disability, gender or sexual orientation, age or religion. We will ensure that all our work in the European Parliament is underpinned by the principle of equality. Previously we have supported EU efforts to promote gender balance and we will continue to do so in the coming parliamentary term.

Rejecting the anti-Europe agenda at Westminster – Only the SNP will always stand up for Scotland and fight to make Scotland's mark in Europe.

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