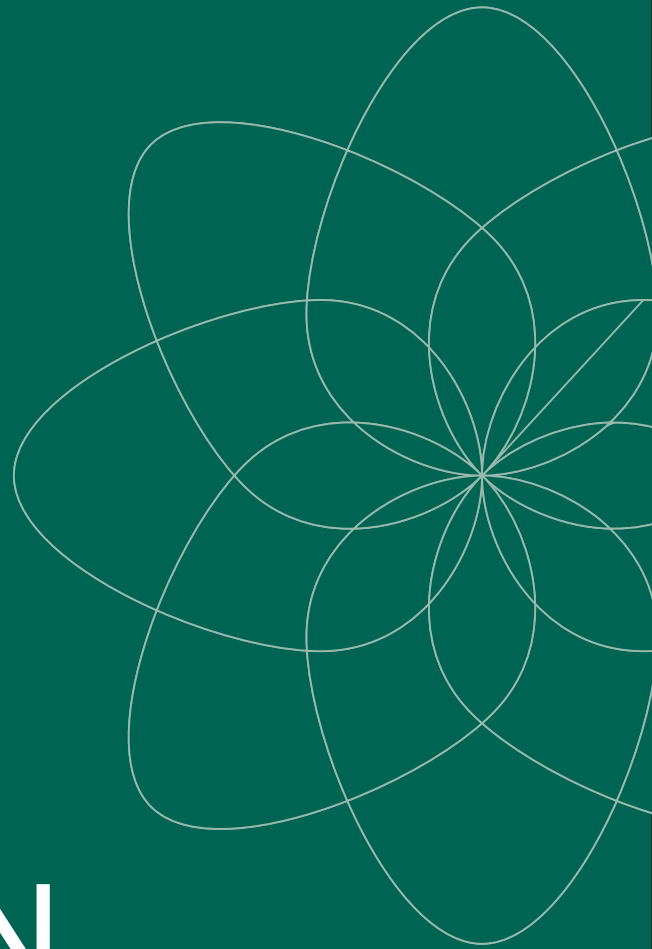




Plaid Cymru
Party of Wales



EUROPEAN
ELECTION MANIFESTO
2019

MAKE WALES MATTER

www.partyof.wales



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MAKE WALES MATTER

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A vote for Plaid Cymru in the European elections on 23 May will be a vote for Wales to stay inside the European Union.

Westminster does not work for Wales. This election is our opportunity to send a message to the UK establishment that it cannot ignore: we are appalled by its actions since the referendum, and we reject the UK parties' plans for a dangerous, damaging Brexit.

There is a simple way out of this Brexit mess, and that is to take our future into our own hands. Plaid Cymru is Wales' leading pro-European party, and a vote for us in this election is a vote for Wales as a proud, European nation.

While Westminster politicians are squabbling with each other, Wales is being left behind. It's time for change. Make Wales matter with a vote for Plaid Cymru.



EUROPEAN
ELECTION MANIFESTO
2019

OUR FIVE KEY PLEDGES TO MAKE WALES MATTER

1

A Final Say Referendum – standing united in our fight for a Final Say referendum and for Wales to remain in the European Union, making the case for Wales to have its own voice in Europe as a member in our own right.

2

A Green New Deal – combating climate change by becoming 100% self-sufficient in renewable electricity by 2035 and rolling out a £3 billion home energy efficiency programme.

3

A Transformative Economic Plan – leading the call for a five-year, £5 billion EU Transformation Fund for Wales to tackle social inequality, and to spread prosperity, investment and opportunity to every part of Wales; from our cities and towns, to our valleys and our rural and coastal communities.

4

Empowering Young People – ensuring continued access to the Erasmus+ education exchange programme, full implementation of the Youth Guarantee Scheme and access to the EU railcard.

5

A Welsh Migration System – creating a Welsh Migration Advisory Service to introduce a migration system that works for the needs of Wales. Our MEPs will lead the call for an EU migration policy based on solidarity.



MAKE WALES MATTER

MAKE WALES MATTER

In this European election in Wales, Plaid Cymru is not just the Party of Wales but the Party of Europe too. We passionately want to Remain in order to transform Wales' future place and prospects inside the European Union.

We want to stay in Europe so we can change it, not just for ourselves, but for the future of Europe itself. In Wales we are the only party with the capacity for winning seats that is unequivocally in favour of a **People's Vote**. Labour's policy on a referendum – as on so much else – is slippery, two-faced, unreliable.

We oppose Brexit because it threatens European collaboration, most importantly in tackling climate change and protecting the natural environment.

The environmental crisis is multi-layered: it includes collapse of biodiversity, pollution of our waterways and the oceans, erosion of the soil, and the impact of population growth and consumerism. We need a radically different economic model. The challenge is huge, and it can only be met through international collaboration and cooperation as well as decentralising power to the most local level possible.

That is central to Plaid Cymru's vision for Wales' future in Europe. We seek independence for our country. But we want that independence so we can make our own contribution to remaking our world, first and foremost as part of the European family of nations.

The European Union has been a leading player in finding a global response to climate change, in the

process initiated by the 1993 Rio Conference. That culminated in the Paris Agreement in 2016, when 195 countries adopted the first ever, universal, legally binding global climate deal.

But that was only the start. We must go much further. That is why Plaid Cymru stands shoulder to shoulder with all those, young and old, that have been calling for both recognition of the global climate emergency but also new action in response in the form of a Green New Deal.

That is why, in the European Election, we are appealing to all progressive people to support us. These European elections are a bridge across which the people of Wales can venture to make the change that Wales needs. If you want a European future for Wales, then vote for the only party that believes in it.

If we want the new Wales that a new politics will bring, we must vote for it.

If Wales matters to you, then **Make Wales Matter** on May 23rd.

Adam Price
Leader of Plaid Cymru

PLAID CYMRU'S EXPERIENCED TEAM TO MAKE WALES MATTER

This election offers an unmissable opportunity to reject the Brexit mess caused by Theresa May and Jeremy Corbyn, and instead to embrace Wales' future as a proud European nation.

Westminster is broken, and Wales deserves better. Plaid Cymru's team of experienced and hardworking candidates will demand better.

Our vision is of an outward looking and confident Wales. Our team will cooperate with other European nations to develop a Transformation Fund, combat climate change and will prioritise policy developments that share prosperity fairly throughout the EU and create opportunities for young people.

During this election, our team will be speaking with people all over the country about our mission to build a New Wales

MEET THE TEAM



JILL
EVANS

Jill Evans MEP has been Plaid Cymru's MEP for Wales since 1999. From the Rhondda, Jill is a former county councillor and a former chair and president of the party. In the current European Parliament, she is Vice-president of the European Free Alliance Group.

Carmen Smith is an experienced campaigner from Ynys Môn who works in international development. She was twice elected as NUS Wales Deputy President, has been active in the People's Vote campaign, and has taken a leading role with the young people's movement For Our Future's Sake.



CARMEN
SMITH



PATRICK
McGUINNESS

Patrick McGuinness is a Professor of French and Comparative Literature at St Anne's College, Oxford. From an English and Belgian background, he has lived in Wales since 2000 and Gwynedd since 2006. He is a celebrated academic, writer, and poet.

Ioan Bellin is a former broadcaster for ITV Wales and BBC Northern Ireland. He has worked in a number of roles for Plaid Cymru over the last 15 years in the National Assembly for Wales. He has stood twice before for the European Parliament and as a candidate in Pontypridd for Westminster and Welsh Parliamentary elections.



IOAN
BELLIN



PLAID'S SUCCESSES AT THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

In the European Parliament, Plaid Cymru is a leading member of the European Free Alliance/ Greens political group. The group currently has 52 MEPs from 18 Member States. Jill Evans, our MEP since 1999 and lead candidate in this election, is Vice President of the European Free Alliance. Over the past five years the group has:

- Advocated the adoption of 'clean energy for all' legislation, defining how the EU and member states will put the Paris Climate Agreement into practice and secured a commitment from the EU that one third of all energy will come from renewable sources by 2030.
- Against the opposition of big energy companies, succeeded in enshrining into law the right for citizens' consumption of renewable energy they produce themselves.
- Achieved the phasing out of palm oil as a biofuel in transport.
- Introduced national building renovation strategies as well as Nearly Zero Energy Buildings as standard for all buildings by 2050 in EU law.
- Initiated a European Fund for Transition for regions or economic sectors where people are losing their jobs, to help sectors and regions develop sustainable jobs for the future.
- Been at the forefront of the fight against plastic pollution which led to the EU committing to reducing plastic waste and banning a whole range of single-use plastic products.
- Led on the reform of organic farming, food labelling, banning the routine use of antibiotics in animal feed, and introducing protection measures for bees.
- Supported tighter controls against money laundering.
- Secured extra investment in cross-border train connections.
- Fought to protect individuals' right to privacy, providing better protection against online and offline surveillance of citizens and consumers.
- Built a coalition in the Parliament against the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership negotiations between the USA and the EU that would have threatened the NHS, jobs, and food and environmental safety.
- Called for a more humane approach and greater solidarity for refugees fleeing to Europe.
- Led the campaign for equality for Europe's regional, minority and endangered languages, leading to an overwhelming majority of MEPs supporting Jill Evans' report on 'Language equality in the digital age'.
- Campaigned for continued European citizenship for the people of Wales in the event of leaving the EU.
- Ensured that the next Erasmus+ programme will be more inclusive, simpler to access, and as open as possible to young people in Wales, even if we leave the EU.

MAKE WALES MATTER

1 A FINAL SAY REFERENDUM

Westminster is broken. Its establishment doesn't care about Wales, and it's leaving Wales behind. Only Plaid Cymru can secure a bright, European future for Wales. Plaid Cymru are proud to be Welsh Europeans and have always set great store by our nation's European heritage.

Remaining in the EU allows us to retain our identities as Welsh Europeans but also protects the many benefits we receive as European citizens.

EU citizenship gives us the right to travel, live, study

and work anywhere in the EU and a wide range of other rights under EU law regarding health, education, work and social security.

Remaining in the EU will also protect Wales from the profound economic impact of Brexit.

In the wake of the 2016 referendum, Plaid Cymru worked hard to understand the potential impacts of Brexit and took the initiative to work with the Welsh Government to produce a common policy aimed at mitigating the worst effects of leaving the EU.

Our work recognised that:

- **Two thirds of Welsh exports go to EU countries**
- **Our success in attracting foreign investment is largely based on access to the EU market of more than 500 million customers**
- **200,000 Welsh jobs rely on our trade with Europe being frictionless**

Consequently, Plaid Cymru called for:

- Full and unrestricted access to the EU Single Market for goods, services and capital – including our key agricultural and food products.
- Wales to remain in the Customs Union to allow goods to be traded freely with more than 80 countries around the world.

The EU Single Market and Customs Union are both essential for our home-grown employers and for attracting inward investment and job creation and this would be the minimum we need to protect Wales' economic interests. At the same time, we in Plaid

Cymru stated that this would still be worse than staying inside the EU. Even though we might be able to negotiate a position where Wales could remain in both, being outside the EU would mean we would have no say over the future decisions about the way they develop.

Indeed, since the referendum, industries and jobs have suffered as a consequence of Brexit and the current climate of uncertainty. Remaining in the EU will enable us to safeguard jobs and having easy access to Europe will encourage important foreign companies to invest in Wales.



TRADE DEALS

The idea that forging new trade deals once out of the EU would be easy was another of the unrealistic promises made during the referendum. Plaid Cymru warned from the very beginning that the British Government would find it impossible to roll over the 40 trade agreements from which it currently benefits through its membership of the EU. So far, the UK has only been able to reach nine out of 40 agreements.

In the twenty first century, the UK is a medium-sized state that is finding it extremely difficult to build trade relationships outside the EU. We are seeing the collapse of the liberal post-war 'global' economic order and the emergence of protectionist blocs, especially US and China. The reality is that Britain, with a population of 67 million, would find it very difficult to compete with the US and its population of 328 million, let alone China with its population of 1,420 million. As we have said all along, Wales' future is better placed in the EU, with its population of more than 500 million.

In the European Parliament, we will continue to work for an EU trade policy that puts our society, our environment and our people first. Plaid Cymru is part of the European fair-trade movement that aims to put human and social rights and the environment ahead of the interests of big businesses. Outside the EU, Wales would be much more vulnerable to harmful trade deals. All trade agreements must be compatible with the targets of the Paris Agreement through legally binding provisions.

AGRICULTURE

Brexit has serious implications for Welsh farmers. In Wales, an average of 80% of a farmer's income comes from the direct payments received through the EU's Common Agricultural Policy.

The Welsh Labour Government proposes to follow the UK Conservative Government by phasing out direct payments to farmers and establishing a new environmental land management system if we leave the EU. Meanwhile, farmers in Scotland, Northern Ireland and the rest of the EU 27 will retain direct payments, creating an unlevel playing field for Welsh farmers and undermining the viability of their businesses.

Meanwhile, if we were to leave the EU without a deal, 20,000 hill farmers in our rural areas could face crippling tariffs on selling their lamb in their main market – the rest of the EU.

It is vital that we protect the Welsh family farm through remaining in the EU – vital for our communities, culture and environment.

MANUFACTURING

Uncertainty around Brexit is already impacting manufacturing. Almost 1,000 job losses have been announced at Ford in Bridgend and another 220 at Schaeffler and 95 at Calsonic Kansei car components plants in Llanelli.

There has also been a serious decline in inward investment since the 2016 referendum, with Wales bottom of the league table. The average fall-off in incoming new projects across the UK was 16.5%, but for Wales it was 46%. Nissan is abandoning its plans to build one of its flagship vehicles in Sunderland. The electronics giants Sony and Panasonic are moving their headquarters from London to Amsterdam and Honda is closing a factory at Swindon, which will affect up to a dozen major suppliers in the Welsh automotive industry

Since the Brexit referendum, investment-led growth has collapsed. Key Welsh companies such as FSG Tool & Die, based in Llantrisant, are holding back on investment because of Brexit uncertainty. Meanwhile Airbus, an important Welsh employer which employs 6,000 people in Broughton and another 500 at Newport, has announced that Brexit will threaten future investment decisions and job prospects.

Retaining our membership of the EU will encourage inward investment and boost investment-led growth.

The evidence is clear - Brexit would be deeply damaging to Wales' communities. That is why we have campaigned from the outset for a Final Say referendum.

Our Final Say referendum will give the people of Wales an opportunity to choose between any deal and remaining in the EU.

2 A GREEN NEW DEAL

Plaid Cymru understands that climate change is the defining challenge of our time. Climate crisis, destruction of nature and overuse of resources threaten the foundations of our well-being and wealth – even our security. With declining biodiversity, polluted air and accelerating climate crisis, the time to act is now. This is not an issue that Wales can tackle alone, that is why we must work with other actors within the EU and with other international institutions to reach agreement and commit to bold action against climate change and promoting decarbonisation.

Europe must lead the way on climate action, implementing a Green New Deal to reach our climate goals. A key aim of the Green New Deal is to make the transition to becoming 100% self-sufficient in renewable electricity by 2035. Investing in renewable energy gives us a historic opportunity to stop the destruction of our planet, improve our quality of life and boost the economy.

Our energy policy will be geared towards ensuring that our resources are used sustainably, tackling pollution, developing jobs in the post-carbon economy and increasing our energy independence.

If climate action is to be effective, it must be enshrined in law. We will campaign for a European climate law, with binding carbon budgets reducing emissions by at least 55% by 2030 and building a net-zero emissions economy. We will seek a complete ban on fracking and new open-cast coal mines.

Determined action on the environment can improve the lives of millions of people. Thousands die every year from fine particles and other air pollutants. It is estimated that air pollution contributes to 2,000 deaths a year in Wales. To protect the air we breathe and the water we drink, we need to cut pollution rapidly.

The EU must also tackle the issue of plastic waste by banning non-recyclable plastics, developing sustainable alternatives and increasing recycling targets.

We want Wales to play our part in leading the world in a just transition to sustainable societies and a Plaid Cymru government will make this a priority. The first step is securing the devolution of all responsibilities for our natural resources so that the power to act is in the hands of the people of Wales, through our democratically elected National Assembly.

To complement our work in the European Parliament, a Plaid Cymru government will act through ensuring that we become self-sufficient in renewable electricity. We will do this through investing in the acquisition and development of new large scale generating and storage capacity projects and providing support for community energy initiatives. Plaid Cymru will commission a national inventory of green energy potential in Wales - an "Energy Atlas for Wales" - and seek to use European Investment Bank funding for green and renewables projects.

Electricity bills in Wales are amongst the highest in the UK. Plaid Cymru wants to lift people out of fuel poverty with a £3bn home energy efficiency programme and a national energy company, Ynni Cymru, to shift to decentralised and distributed networks and use profit from Welsh resources to cut the cost of energy for Welsh consumers. Our MEPs will push for bolder action in the EU on energy efficiency, building on the targets set out in the Energy Efficiency Directive.

The European Climate Action Network scored parties on their actions to tackle climate change in the European Parliament. They scored Plaid Cymru 96%, the highest score.



A TRANSFORMATIVE ECONOMIC PLAN

3

MAKE WALES MATTER

Wales has benefitted significantly from our membership of the EU, particularly from the £680 million a year we currently receive. This funding has not only been hugely important to Wales in terms of driving economic growth and jobs, it has also enabled the Welsh Government to leverage additional resources from both public and private sources.

EU funding has been crucial for regional economic development and agriculture. In addition, significant investment in Wales has been stimulated by several smaller EU programmes such as Horizon 2020, Erasmus+, Creative Europe and the Wales-Ireland Interreg Programme.

This funding has been a key source of support for Wales in years when Westminster's austerity agenda and the Labour Welsh Government's complacency has led to life expectancy in Wales falling quicker than anywhere else in Europe. In addition, almost a third of Welsh children are living in relative poverty – robbing our young people of a proper childhood and impacting life chances before they've even begun.

This underlines the need to ensure that Wales does not lose our European funding and the urgency with which we must act.

In July 2015 the European Commission and the European Investment Bank launched the European Fund for Strategic Investment. The aim was to unlock additional investment to help Europe recover from the impact of the financial crisis. It has financed strategic investments in key areas such as infrastructure, education, renewable energy, social housing, hospitals and energy efficiency as well as supporting SMEs.

When the Fund for Strategic Investment comes to an end in 2020, Plaid Cymru MEPs will lead the call for the creation of a Transformation Fund to reinvigorate our poorer communities, support industry and tackle poverty wages. This should be the continuing centrepiece of EU economic and social strategy. It would give meaning to the shared solidarity that is expressed through the principle of economic and social cohesion at the heart of the EU project.

Our MEPs will call for Wales to benefit from £5 billion over five years from the Transformation Fund, enabling us to spread prosperity, investment and opportunity to every part of Wales; from our cities and towns, to our valleys and our rural and coastal communities.

Remaining in the EU will also guarantee us continued access to the EU Single Market, supporting the economy and international trade. The Welsh economy is closely integrated into the EU Single Market and benefits substantially from participation. Some two thirds of Welsh exports go to EU countries and Wales' success in attracting foreign direct investment over many decades has been driven to a large extent by access to the EU market of more than 500 million customers.

Remaining in the EU and the Single Market will prevent the steep decline of investment and jobs which would flow from a radical deterioration of the basis on which Wales and the rest of the UK trade with our key European markets. This will retain economic stability which is imperative given that Wales is potentially more vulnerable to economic shocks than some other parts of the UK due to factors such as relatively low household income and a greater reliance on manufacturing.

Tax justice will also be a priority for our MEPs. Everybody must pay their fair share in taxes because corporate tax evasion and corporate tax avoidance undermine democracy. Our society is becoming increasingly divided with unfair taxation contributing to inequality. We have fought hard in the European Parliament for more tax justice and will continue to work with other parties at the EU to develop tax regimes that do not continue to privilege large multinational corporations and wealthy individuals. We will continue to crack down on tax havens, tax evasion, tax avoidance and money laundering. It is unacceptable that many multinational corporations as well as big internet platforms pay almost no taxes at all. The scale of the EU means that it is able to take on the largest, multinational corporations, something which would be very difficult for the UK alone.

4 EMPOWERING YOUNG PEOPLE

Years after the financial crisis, young Europeans continue to face challenges. Many feel anxious about the future, witnessing the inaction by status-quo politicians.

As a nation, we have a responsibility to build a country of opportunity for future generations. Young people should be at the forefront of shaping their futures and be empowered to be our leaders.

We will work with young people to build societies where they have full access to social protection and rights, such as housing, education and political participation. We will promote policies to tackle youth unemployment, brain drain and poverty.

We will call for young people to have access to an EU railcard which will enable free travel throughout the EU, providing a culturally enriching experience.

Plaid Cymru will push for full implementation of the Youth Guarantee Scheme, ensuring that all young people in Wales under the age of 25 have access to education, training or employment opportunities.

In the European Parliament, Plaid Cymru will promote initiatives aimed at strengthening local and regional economies and creating stable, safe and sustainable jobs. The precarious situation of youth employment, including the proliferation of unpaid internships and temporary jobs, demands immediate action on the protection of labour rights and decent income for all ages. Jill Evans MEP was instrumental in the revision of the Europass regulation – the European initiative for documenting skills, qualifications and professional experience – making it easier for young people from Wales to apply for jobs in other parts of the EU.

Jill was also a key player in the parliamentary report on 'A new skills agenda for Europe', which advocates a holistic approach to education and skills development, focusing not only on skills that will help the economy, but also skills that will benefit society as a whole.

Access to high quality education and training at all levels and for all is crucial if we are to ensure that every citizen can reach their full potential. Plaid Cymru will strive to ensure continued access to educational and cultural exchange programmes, including Erasmus+ which has provided opportunities for links between individuals, regions and countries, creating diverse cultural and business opportunities. In 2016 alone, 2235 students from Wales received Erasmus+ grants to study abroad, and Wales has received over £26 million for educational and cultural schemes from Erasmus in the last 4 years. Every young person should have the opportunity to participate in an exchange programme, regardless of financial background or educational career.

To enhance the benefits made available to young people through our continued membership of the EU, in Wales, a Plaid Cymru government will ensure we have the skills necessary to prosper. We will create a new network of specialist National Colleges of Vocational Education, for 14+ and post-compulsory education.

We will combat the enormous and debilitating brain drain that we face, as currently many of our brightest students cross the border to study and stay in England. We will create an incentive for those students who remain or return to live and work in Wales after graduating, helping to retain our brightest young people and strengthen our economy. Remaining within the EU will benefit our students and our universities through access to crucial research funding. In 2015/16 alone, Welsh Universities received £25 million in research funding from the EU.

To ensure that we do not deprive an entire generation of the reasonable expectation of having a decent home, we need to have substantially more affordable housing and control rent prices. In government, we will implement restrictions on rent increases within tenancies and supply more affordable housing through a combination of bringing empty properties back into use, and new developments of mixed housing in the social and private sectors.



A WELSH MIGRATION SYSTEM **5**

MAKE WALES MATTER

Migrants make a valuable and important contribution to Welsh life, economically and culturally. Migration is important for many of our key sectors. For example, migrants make an important contribution to our NHS. 30% of our doctors received their training abroad, with 6% being trained in EU countries. Remaining in the EU is the best way of protecting EU citizens' right to work here.

This Westminster Government, however, is proposing unworkable and illogical immigration policies which will hurt the Welsh economy. We will continue to call for a rational immigration policy that works for Wales, where students and job creators can come, but wages aren't undercut.

In government, Plaid Cymru will create a Welsh Migration Advisory Service so that we can have a system that suits Wales' needs. Welsh-specific visas are necessary to plug skills gaps and to protect our health service from staff shortages.

Plaid Cymru will also seek the devolution of migration policy, so that Wales can set its own migration quota according to its own needs, with greater flexibility, for example, in processing entrepreneur visas.

Where there are identified skills shortages, we should be actively recruiting across the EU. In addition, international students must be taken out of net migration targets.

Staying in the EU will enable our students and our researchers to study anywhere across Europe, which is in the best interests of Wales and the UK as a whole.

It is crucial that all migrants are treated with dignity and regard for their basic human rights. We want to protect the rights of migrant workers and combat all forms of labour exploitation and forced labour in Europe.

Plaid Cymru has consistently called for the rights of all EU citizens in the UK and UK citizens in the EU to be legally protected, whatever the outcome of the negotiations. We proposed continuing or associate EU citizenship for people in Wales in the event of us leaving the EU and presented the legal method of achieving this.

We, like other EU countries, must assume our responsibilities and provide aid and support for those fleeing war or persecution. We must take a more humane approach and show greater solidarity with refugees, including those crossing the Mediterranean in precarious circumstances. Our MEPs will lead the call for an EU migration policy based on solidarity, which means moving towards a migration system based on a fair allocation of asylum seekers across all Member States. In Wales, Plaid Cymru want Wales to be a real nation of sanctuary for refugees fleeing war and oppression and will help refugees and asylum seekers integrate into Welsh society.

FOOD, AGRICULTURE & FISHING

Farming is the backbone of many rural communities across Wales and agriculture is an all-important sector in terms of the broader Welsh economy. Currently, an average of 80% of a farmer's income comes from the direct payments they receive through the EU's Common Agricultural Policy. Direct payments provide stability and security to farmers and are crucial in ensuring the vitality of Welsh farms and the wider rural economy.

The Welsh Labour Government intend phasing out direct payments if we leave the EU, which would have a devastating impact on the rural economy and the fabric of rural communities. A Plaid Cymru government will retain a direct payment. We can also protect this funding and Welsh farmers by remaining in the EU.

The Welsh food and drink sector is integral to the prosperity and health of communities throughout Wales. The food supply chain is worth £6 billion to the Welsh economy, and the food and drink industry employs an estimated 240,000 people. We will seek to create a domestic food market which produces good,

local food with the highest environmental and animal welfare standards. We support a GMO-free Wales and the continuing moratorium on GM crops in the EU.

The Welsh fish and shellfish sector is worth £25 million to Wales and exports 90% of its produce, much of it to the EU. The vast majority catch shellfish, exporting them live to the continent or further afield via EU trade deals. This makes Welsh capture fisheries, aquaculture producers and seafood supply chains particularly vulnerable to any hold-ups in the transporting of their produce because if they are held up in ports, they can deteriorate and lose value. Any tariff barriers or non-tariff barriers would have an immense impact on viability.

The frictionless trade which is a benefit of EU membership is therefore crucial. Remaining in the EU will help protect the future of our hard-working fishing families. In government, Plaid Cymru will also support the industry through developing a Small Harbours Initiative to increase the long-term viability of the fisheries sector.

ANIMAL WELFARE

Animal welfare is a crucial issue in the EU and Plaid Cymru will call for a European Commissioner to take particular responsibility for animal welfare issues. This would send out a powerful message that the EU takes this matter seriously. Plaid Cymru has consistently called for a comprehensive European Animal Welfare Law. In Wales, Plaid Cymru will continue to call for the

creation of an Animal Abuse Register for Wales.

Wildlife species in Wales are at risk of disappearing, with loss of biodiversity a threat to our natural environment. We will update and consolidate Welsh wildlife legislation, creating a new Wildlife Act for Wales.





HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

Our long-term vision is of a truly national NHS which is patient led and digitally-enabled with minimum bureaucracy and the capacity to provide a wide array of services which are accessible to all, in every part of Wales. Retaining EU membership, with its many health and research related bodies and legal frameworks, will be key in making this vision a reality.

Remaining in the EU will ensure that the transportation of vital medicines can carry on without border checks and delays and that the Welsh NHS is able to remain part of the extensive research networks for health, which ensure clinical trials and research funding come to Wales. This includes access to the information provided by agencies such as the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control.

EU staff are an essential part of our National Health Service and Social Care services. Overall, the UK has fewer practising doctors per 1,000 people than any other EU15 country, therefore, it is crucial that EU staff are able to continue working in this key sector.

In government, Plaid Cymru will train and recruit an

additional 1000 doctors and 5000 nurses for the Welsh NHS in the next decade. We will increase the number of home-grown Welsh doctors and nurses through our investments in medical schools and training, but it will remain important that we are able to continue attracting EU trained doctors, particularly in specific specialisms that are experiencing a shortage.

Plaid Cymru want to ensure that qualifications to work in health are rigorous and recognised across the EU to ensure the free movement of health professionals throughout the EU, whilst ensuring that patients and employers can have confidence in their ability. This will include minimum language standards appropriate for each country and ensuring all health systems have appropriate professional development built into career pathways.

Plaid Cymru supports the AllTrials campaign for publication of all clinical trials to ensure transparency in medical research. We will support efforts to increase the robustness of the EU licensing of medicines, and we support calls for stronger regulation against false health claims being made in product marketing.

PEACE AND SECURITY

continue to oppose the new European Defence Fund and call for funding for civilian conflict prevention.

Freedom from violence is also a basic right within Europe. The EU and national authorities need to work harder and better together to prevent and combat terrorism. The EU can provide funding to fight radicalisation, while stricter rules on weapons and ammunition can reduce gun violence.

Work is progressing to set up a Wales Peace Institute which aims to inform our decision makers and create a more peaceful and inclusive society. It would join the network of peace institutes in countries around the world.

MAKE WALES MATTER

The EU was created as a peace project and it still maintains peace between the countries of Europe. Europe now needs to be much more active in finding peaceful solutions to armed conflicts both in our neighbourhood and beyond. Addressing the root causes of conflict is easier, cheaper and more humane than dealing with the aftermath.

We call for stopping arms exports to dictators and warring parties. Europe should actively work for international disarmament, including banning nuclear weapons and robots programmed to kill. The EU should lead the way in signing the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and urge all member states to do so. Plaid Cymru will

CRIME AND JUSTICE

International co-operation to prevent crime and ensure justice for victims of crime is crucial, particularly fraud and human trafficking. We must maintain our ability to participate in the European arrest warrant, our Europol membership and our ability to participate in information sharing through remaining in the EU. They are designed to protect the rights of defendants and the vulnerable across borders, facilitate mutual co-operation and support practical processes for fighting cross-border crime and delivering justice.

As an EU member state, the UK is a full member of Europol, the pan-EU law enforcement agency which assists member states in their fight against serious international crime and terrorism. Europol is vital to our national security as it offers unparalleled opportunities to prevent serious crime and to protect our citizens.

From stopping the smuggling of goods and people to stopping outright acts of terrorism, retaining our full membership of Europol through remaining in the EU will help ensure the continued security of this country in a time of great uncertainty. It will ensure that we retain our access to all Europol's databases and be able to share information on international criminals and terrorists effectively.

Plaid Cymru is particularly concerned by continued human trafficking, and welcome that the EU has recognised this as a priority. Reports suggest that 80% of victims of human trafficking in Europe are women

and girls who are overwhelmingly used for sexual exploitation, while male victims are trafficked for labour. Plaid Cymru want to see increased resources allocated to investigations and the prosecution and conviction of human traffickers. Plaid Cymru believe that governments across Europe should increase steps to prevent this crime happening in the first place, as well as pursuing breaches of the law when they are identified.

We support the European Convention on Human Rights that underpins our justice system. A Plaid Cymru government will publish a human rights charter for Wales to defend Welsh people against the backdrop of a Tory government intent on undermining the Human Rights Act.

We also believe that the time is appropriate for policing and criminal justice powers to be transferred to Wales, as they are in Scotland and Northern Ireland. As part of this transfer of powers we will create a Welsh legal jurisdiction, creating a justice system that reflects the needs of Wales. By devolving policing we will secure an extra £25 million for Welsh police forces, ensuring we can invest in crucial police services, rooted in our communities, focused on the priorities they need to keep us safe.

We will take strong action to cut crime, focusing on community level interventions and we will reverse cuts to legal aid so that everyone can have access to a justice system that gives victims a fair hearing.





MAKE WALES MATTER

Plaid Cymru believe in a fair and just society where everyone is treated equally and enjoys the same rights, regardless of their gender, ethnicity, religion or sexual orientation.

Plaid Cymru understands that despite the significant progress made, on average, women are paid at lower rates per hour than men for work of equal value and are more likely to be in part-time employment or under-employed. We will promote economic independence for women by strengthening EU equality legislation, guaranteeing individual rights to social protection and taxation, ending gender pay and pension gaps and providing social care, parental leave and childcare.

Plaid Cymru will address the impact of austerity-led cuts on funding for specialist services for women who have experienced domestic violence or abuse and ensure continued support to marginalised and vulnerable groups in society.

Our candidates have signed the Me Too European Parliament pledge, committing to supporting the implementation of the resolution on combatting sexual harassment and abuse in the EU, the establishment of a strong Gender Action Plan and an EU directive on combatting violence against women.

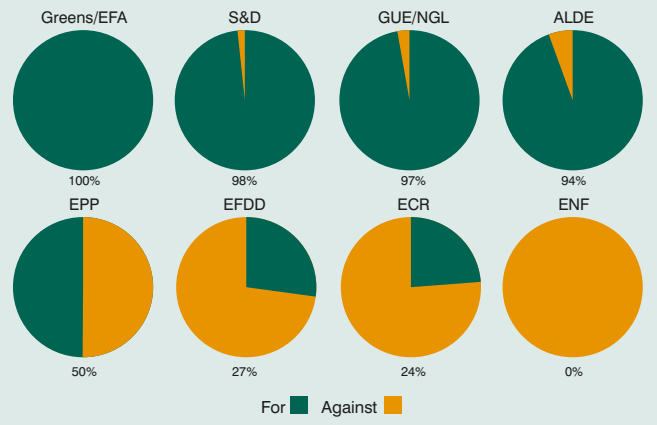
We believe that LGBTQI+ voices and experiences need to be heard and affirmed. In the European Parliament, the Greens/EFA political group were the only ones to fully support LGBTQI+ rights in every vote. They led the way in the European Parliament adopting measures prohibiting LGBTQI+ conversion therapies and secured freedom of movement for same-sex couples.

EQUALITIES

Laws against hate crime and hate speech need to be consistent and cover homophobia and transphobia in all EU member states. Currently in the EU, discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation is only prohibited in the field of employment. We want to see this expanded to other areas like healthcare, education, social protection and access to goods and services.

Everyone should be able to feel safe and respected within their communities. In Wales, Plaid Cymru will work with Police and Crime Commissioners to ensure

How did European Political Groups vote on LGBTI rights in 2014-2019?



that all hate crime, including homophobic, racist and anti-disability hate crime, is treated as a serious offence by Welsh police forces and investigated appropriately so that victims can feel confident and secure in reporting incidents.

WALES AND THE WORLD

Plaid Cymru will strive to make Wales the destination of choice for tourists and businesses across the world through closer economic and cultural ties with our traditional partners and allies

In government, Plaid Cymru will develop an international policy for Wales that restores our position as a great trading nation. We will introduce a Global Wales Agency, responsible for attracting new businesses, talent and industry from around the world, but also for putting Wales onto the global map for our exports.

We will also establish, as in Ireland, a separate National Enterprise Agency, responsible for development inside Wales. A particular responsibility for this new body will be to ensure equitable investment and sustainable growth throughout Wales.

Plaid Cymru will continue to support strategic trade missions across the world to foster awareness of Wales in new territories and take advantage of new opportunities that this provides to create jobs. We will publish a set of trade negotiation principles, including

for labour and environment standards, and protection of the rights of cultural and language minorities.

Plaid Cymru recognises the importance of the tourism industry across Wales as an employer and in attracting investment into the country. We have promoted Wales at every opportunity in the European Parliament with exhibitions and seminars and Jill Evans MEP has facilitated the creation of a European cultural tourism network involving the smaller nations in the EU.

We want to promote Wales as a top quality, sustainable tourism destination with activities and experiences based on our natural resources, our produce, our unique coastline and landscape and our language, culture and heritage. Currently, the tourism industry is throttled by unfair taxes and a Government that is failing to promote Wales as a global tourist destination. Plaid Cymru want to see tourism VAT cut to put Wales ahead in the international tourism market and launch a Celebrate Wales year to stimulate tourism across the country.

CULTURE AND MEDIA

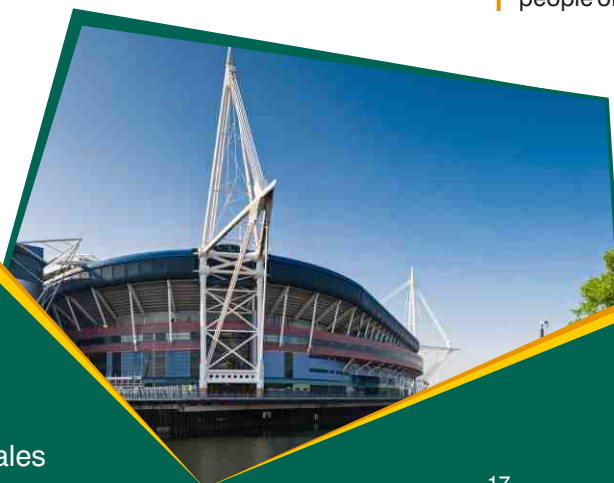
As Member of the European Parliament's Culture and Education Committee, Jill Evans MEP has used every opportunity to promote and protect Welsh cultural interest in the EU, working closely with Welsh cultural organisations.

Plaid Cymru will place art, culture and language together with sport – all vitally important parts of our social tradition and way of life – at the heart of all our policies, from local government finance, through to health and education and our European policies. Creativity, innovation and a sense of place will be critical to the success of any economy in the 21st century, and also carry a huge social dividend in wellbeing and community cohesion.

In Wales, we will maintain free entry to museums, create a National Digital Library for Wales and enable National Museums Wales to create a dedicated National Art Gallery.

We recognise that Wales has fewer bank holidays than almost any other nation in the EU. Plaid Cymru will make 1st March a national St David's Day bank holiday in Wales.

Plaid Cymru is seeking the devolution of broadcasting so that we can create a level-playing field with every other UK nation and give Wales the power to decide its own media and broadcasting policy. In government, we will create a real Welsh media that represents the people of Wales and what matters to them.





MAKE WALES MATTER

Years of chronic underinvestment has meant Welsh roads, railways and buses are overcrowded and crumbling. Our transport system is not fit for purpose and our links with the rest of the world have been neglected. Creating a national transport system fit for the 21st century is crucially important for our wider social and economic goals as a nation. Our communities and country need connecting.

As member of the European Parliament's Transport and Tourism Committee, Jill has campaigned for sustainable transport and for Wales to be included in the key TEN-T transport networks.

Plaid Cymru want to see a real Wales-wide transport system that connects the nation and links Wales to the world. In government, we will undertake the biggest investment programme since devolution in all parts of Wales to improve our public transport system and our road networks. Access to EU funding will be key to delivery. As part of our National Transport Plan, we will:

- Introduce a Wales-wide integrated National Smart Card ticketing service for passenger convenience, ensuring better integration between bus and rail.
- Introduce measures to make rail fares more affordable, endeavour to secure new trains for our stock, identify locations for new stations across the network and will also look to re-open railway lines across Wales to create new links between communities.
- Help achieve our environmental goals through making public transport more affordable and attractive, introducing additional public electricity charging points across Wales, starting the transition towards a wholly electric fleet of public sector vehicles and supporting active travel.

TRANSPORT

- Invest in transport solutions that work for rural Wales and its demographic and geographic challenges.
- Develop a ports strategy, focusing in particular on opportunities in freight and distribution, cruise tourism and renewables related developments.
- Support the creation of innovative and integrated transport systems throughout Wales. The feasibility study into re-opening the rail line from Carmarthen to Aberystwyth should be extended to include the whole route northwards to Bangor. Re-opening a rail link to Llangefni, and on to Amlwch should be a further ambition to help create opportunities in the north-east of Ynys Môn.
- Make a success of Cardiff airport, and bring Europe and the world to Wales, to support our export markets and tourism. We will take advantage of all support that can be provided by the EU to assist in this and seek the devolution of Air Passenger Duty to give the airport a competitive edge.
- Re-regulate buses, protect bus passes for those currently eligible, expand the demand driven Bwcabus scheme in parts of rural Wales where a regular bus service is not viable and expand the Traws Cymru service as a national bus service that serves major towns across the country.
- We will take an All-Wales approach to our investment in Wales' road network and in road safety, focusing on improving North-South links in addition to the investment needed in the main East-West transport corridors. We will oppose the M4 relief road, investing instead in public transport alternatives.

HOUSING

In Wales, our housing stock is outdated and inefficient. Our MEPs will call for an EU fund for social, affordable and energy efficient housing.

A Plaid Cymru government will use this fund, as well as prioritising other sources of investment, to build 20,000 new homes in the social sector over a 5-year term of government, to contribute to local and affordable housing needs throughout Wales.

In Wales, which has an older and more traditional housing stock, housing refurbishments are important in order to reduce families' fuel bills. That is why Plaid Cymru successfully lobbied for the right of EU governments to cut VAT on retro-fitting houses. To secure quality housing for all, we will also roll out a £3bn home energy efficiency programme which will stimulate job creation, tackle fuel poverty and reduce carbon emissions.

Plaid Cymru will take effective action to end homelessness in Wales, using preventative measures to keep people in their homes and protect people from

eviction whenever possible. Plaid Cymru believe in a housing first model for tackling homelessness, and we support the plan produced by Crisis for ending homelessness. We will adopt their recommendations in government; ending priority need, abolishing intentionality, and funding prevention work properly. We propose that alternative sources of housing supply be encouraged through an increase in the focus on bringing empty properties back into use, the building of Scandinavian style Social Care housing, and encouraging smaller eco-friendly developments and self-builds.

We will strengthen the voice of local communities in the planning system so that new developments are sustainable and accompanied by investments in public services. We believe austerity is incompatible with a desire for more housing and local democracy. We will strengthen the rights of consumers who buy new-build houses, and change planning laws to prevent the scandal of unfinished estates, unadopted roads, and lengthy delays between phases of development

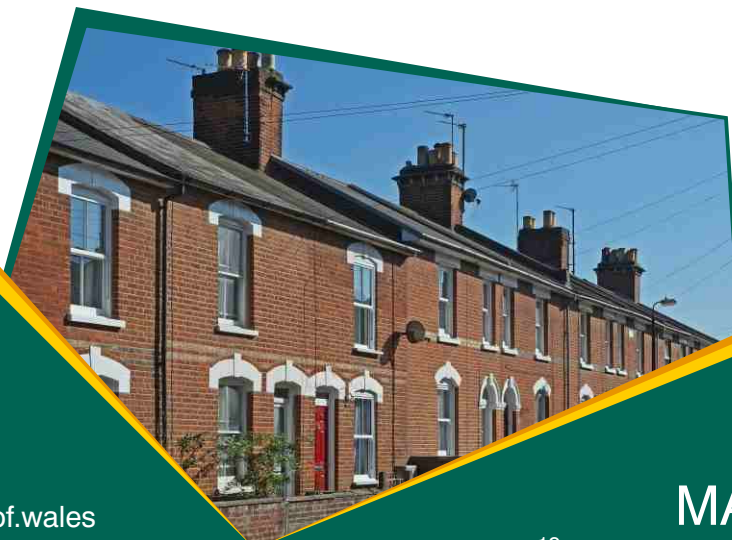
REFORMING THE EU

We want to remain and reform from inside the EU, with all the advantages of membership. We want to help build a Europe in which all decisions are taken openly and lobbying is properly controlled. We will work for human rights and justice at home and internationally - action best led by the EU on the world stage.

It is crucial that all of Europe's peoples are involved in EU decision-making. To ensure this, the EU must reform its participatory democracy. In particular, the European Parliament must have the power to initiate legislation.

All the nations and historic regions should be represented in a second chamber of the parliament which would be the co-legislator and replace the current Committee of the Regions.

Plaid Cymru want to see greater transparency in the Council and the democratic election of the European Commission president by the European Parliament.





MAKE WALES MATTER

Plaid Cymru want a genuinely bilingual Wales where citizens can choose which language to use in their daily lives. To achieve that, we need to substantially increase the number of Welsh speakers across the country and ensure that speakers have opportunities to use the language wherever they choose to do so. We want to encourage a greater use of Welsh in the workplace in the public, private and third sectors and, in government, will use procurement contracts and apprenticeships to promote use of Welsh.

The Welsh language belongs to everybody in Wales and it is important that everyone has the opportunity to become bilingual. We will increase the availability of Welsh language education from nursery, to further and higher education right through to adult learning.

The status of the Welsh language is also important. In government, Plaid Cymru legislated to give official status to Welsh, creating rights for individuals to receive services through the medium of Welsh. Plaid Cymru will push for improved Welsh language status at the UK and European levels, including allowing its use in meetings of the Welsh Grand Committee and Welsh Affairs Select Committee at Westminster and the designation of Welsh as an official language of the EU.

There are currently 24 official European languages, Welsh has co-official status thanks to the work of Plaid Cymru. But we want to go further. We want equality for our language with other EU official languages. This is not a symbolic gesture.

In Wales, there are nearly 600,000 Welsh speakers, many of whom are young people, but their language skills are not currently recognised. To work in the

THE WELSH LANGUAGE

European institutions, you need two official EU languages. Making Welsh an official EU language would give us equality and provide international job opportunities for Welsh speakers and give Wales the same economic benefits as when Irish became an official EU language in 2007.

It is also crucial that Welsh speakers are able to access and use the digital world in Welsh. Across Europe, many minority languages are being excluded from an increasingly digitized society. In the European Parliament, Jill Evans MEP has campaigned for language equality and secured the commitment of an overwhelming majority of MEPs to addressing the problem of digital language barriers through her parliamentary report on 'Language equality in the digital age'. This has given a substantial boost to the campaign for the digital protection of lesser-spoken languages.

There is already ground-breaking work taking place in Wales with exciting projects developing digital capacity for Welsh, such as at Bangor University where they are developing the Welsh National Terminology Portal and Lleisiwr that enables text to speech.

It is vital that the EU legislates to ensure digital provision for minority languages. Our MEPs will continue to call on the EU to improve the institutional frameworks for language technology policies, create new research policies to increase the use of language technology in Europe, and use education policies in order to secure the future of language equality in the digital age. We will also call on the EU to increase the support for both private companies and public bodies to make better use of language technologies.

WALES AS AN INDEPENDENT MEMBER STATE

Plaid Cymru believe that Wales should be a member state of the EU. This would make us a full voting member with the right of veto where the European Treaties allow so that the Welsh Government would have a voice at the top table.

We would have full access to and participation in the EU as a member state to allow us to work for the Welsh national interest, rather than be represented by the UK Government which does not act in our best interests.

If Wales were to become independent members of the EU, then we would benefit from electing more Members of the European Parliament and our own European Commissioner. Wales would elect 9 European Parliament Members rather than the 4 that we currently have – more than doubling our representation.

Under the current system, Wales is represented at EU level by four Members of the European Parliament, by two members of Ecosoc (the European Economic and Social Committee) and by four members of the Committee of the Regions (2 full members, 2 alternate members).

Welsh ministers may be allowed to attend meetings as part of the UK delegation, but are speaking on behalf of the UK Government, not Wales.

Plaid Cymru believe that there should be automatic Welsh representation in European Council decisions when they have an impact upon Wales. The First

Minister should have the right to attend all Council of Ministers meetings with observer status with speaking rights.

We also believe that the casting of the UK vote should require agreement by the relevant ministers from all four administrations and that, where there is no agreement, this should be reported.

The UK has one European Commissioner who is appointed by the UK Government.

Plaid Cymru has proposed a 'rotating' commissioner from the UK, selected, in turn, by the different Governments within the UK for the five-year mandate, meaning Wales would get to select our own commissioner when our turn comes around.

Under the present arrangements, Plaid Cymru believe that the National Assembly for Wales, along with the other devolved administrations, should participate in the selection of the UK's European Commissioner and have the power of veto for unsuitable candidates and the power to nominate candidates for the process.

The National Assembly for Wales should review Wales' overseas representation, learning from best practice. The focus should be on providing a service which promotes the Welsh national interest, providing political representation from the Welsh Government and National Assembly and a trade mission to promote Wales.





Plaid Cymru
Party of Wales