



Glenis Willmott MEP Labour's Leader in Europe

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Climate change

At a recent event, hosted by the [British Medical Journal](#), experts urged the EU to act now in order to tackle the health and security issues that surround climate change.



They believe that climate change poses an "[immediate, grave and escalating threat](#)" to the health and security of people around the world .

At present the EU has committed itself to a rather modest [20% reduction](#) in Carbon emissions, but says that figure can be increased, depending on the response by the worlds major polluters, such as China and the USA.

Labour MEP's voted to raise the cut in carbon emissions from [20% to 30%](#), however, the vote was lost because Tory MEPs voted against the measure. This dispelled any myth that David Cameron's government would be the "greenest government ever".

Tories at war over Europe

Once again we have been forced to witness an out of touch Conservative party, [tear itself apart over Europe](#).

The government was always going to win the EU in/out referendum vote, but in the process, David Cameron's leadership has been severely damaged.



Instead of fighting his own Euro sceptic MP's, David Cameron should be concentrating his efforts on creating jobs and growth in our economy. Having a referendum on the EU will not create one single long term job or do a single thing to help squeezed families pay their household bills.

The reality is, that if we gave up our membership of the [most powerful trading bloc in the world](#), we would put at risk our position as a serious player in the world economy and would jeopardise foreign investment into the UK.

Approximately 3.5 million British jobs depend on Britain's access to the single market, and if we don't have a voice at the table where the common rules for that market are made, we will end up like [Norway](#).

Over the last few months, Labour MEPs have been working hard to pass laws on [bankers' bonuses](#), secure long term reform of the financial service sector, reduce data roaming charges and secure rights for Brits who fall victim to crime abroad. To secure these things, we have to work closely with our colleagues from other countries.

David Cameron needs to be doing the same. The Eurozone crisis is our crisis too, but having lost all credibility with his counterparts, he is failing to show the real leadership that we need. At the last European summit, it is reported that Nicolas Sarkozy told [Cameron to 'stop interfering'](#). So it is essential that the Prime Minister rebuilds his relationships with other EU leaders in order to deliver a solution for the Eurozone crisis, because British jobs depend on it.

Glenis

Dogs that save lives



A few weeks ago, Glenis chaired a European Parliament Sub Health Committee, where a presentation was given on the work of specially trained [epilepsy dogs](#). Over half a million people in the UK suffer from epilepsy. The onset of epilepsy can happen in all ages, races and social classes.

The danger from an [epileptic fit](#) is not actually the condition itself, it is from the environment in which the fit takes place. Patients will often smash their heads against objects or fall down stairs. These dogs can predict an epileptic fit up to an [hour before an attack happens](#), therefore allowing the patient to get to a place of safety.

The benefit to sufferers of epilepsy are vast, however, there are benefits to the NHS too, which saves money and time because the patient doesn't have to have an ambulance called or make a hospital visit.

For more information on the work of these dogs please visit the following websites: [The epilepsy society](#) and [Support dogs](#)

Economic six pack get it very wrong

Legislation approved in Strasbourg earlier this month is a [step in the wrong direction](#) for Europe.

The economic six-pack was backed by a majority of MEPs earlier this month, but it has been criticised as committing countries to austerity policies with insufficient regard to economic growth.

The best way to deal with deficits and debt is to help our economies to grow and boost employment, yet there is nothing in these plans on where the jobs will come from.

Right wing governments across Europe are having a huge impact on a whole generation of [young people in particular](#). It is essential that we restore the hope to young people across Europe that they will be able to get on the jobs ladder. By persisting with this blinkered, austerity-only approach, European leaders are committing national governments to discredited policies that we can already see are not delivering strong growth.

Labour MEPs reject budget rise

Whilst hard working families across the region are struggling with the high price of food, fuel and household bills, it would have been wrong to raise the EU budget, and that is why [Labour MEPs have voted against such measures](#).

Government's Obesity Strategy is short-sighted.

The government has recently announced its strategy to fight the rising tide of obesity in the UK. The Health Secretary has insisted that he will not regulate the food industry, but will leave people to fend for themselves. This has been tried before, with the result being an increase in obesity, especially amongst children.

The recent trip to Brussels was a huge success and everyone said how much they enjoyed the experience. We have a limited amount of sponsored places for these trips, and anyone who is interested in a trip to Brussels should contact the office for more details.

And Finally.... You may have heard the news that Conservative MEP, Roger Helmer, is to stand down at the end of the year. On hearing the news, Glenis said: *"I am sure that Roger will continue to campaign on his pet issues and that we will continue to disagree on almost everything, but I wish him the best of luck as he continues to make a nuisance of himself with the government."*