ANDREW MARR:  
We hear a lot about the Scottish Nationalists at the moment. What about the Welsh ones? Plaid Cymru says it’s the only party that can further the Welsh national interest to the heart of Europe and has urged voters to reject damaging Europhobia in this month’s European Election. However, low turnout plus a threat of UKIP might cost Plaid its only European seat. I’m joined now from Cardiff by the Plaid Leader Leanne Wood. Good morning and welcome to you, Leanne Wood.

LEANNE WOOD:  
(says good morning in Welsh) Good morning, Andrew.

ANDREW MARR:  
That was Welsh. Now you are the only Plaid Leader not to speak Welsh when you got into the job. I take it the lessons are going well therefore?

LEANNE WOOD:  
I am a Welsh learner, but you are right to say that I am the first Leader of Plaid Cymru to not be a first language Welsh speaker. But our party is an inclusive party and we speak to everyone who lives in Wales. Obviously the language is important to
us, but so is every single citizen who lives in this country.

**ANDREW MARR:**
We’re about to review the papers. We’ll be talking about the push for Scottish independence of course. That’s all over the place. Why do you think there’s been so little kind of bleed of that emotion into Welsh politics? I mean they’re on a roll, but you’re not so much.

**LEANNE WOOD:**
Well the devolution journeys in our two countries are at very different stages. When Scotland started out as a devolved nation, they already had an independent legal service, an independent education service; whereas in Wales, we were starting from the very beginning. So I’m very confident that over time we will gain strength in Wales in terms of our economic position, that our dependency will reduce over time, and that in the future we in Wales will be able to put the question to the people of Wales as to where we want our future to lie too.

**ANDREW MARR:**
Do you think you will see an independent Wales in your lifetime?

**LEANNE WOOD:**
Yes I do. I’m very confident that I will. There is support all the time in all the polls that we see for more devolution, for more independence. For example, we’ve got a more independent health service here in Wales, which has avoided the privatisation agenda. So there is demand and support for greater autonomy all the time in Wales and that is growing and I think in the future it’ll grow more.

**ANDREW MARR:**
You’ve singled out UKIP as one of the big threats. Is it possible that they will lose you, help lose you your only seat in the European Parliament? And if so, how big a blow would that be for Plaid at this stage?

**LEANNE WOOD:**
Well at this election, the people of Wales face two futures: one where they are
dragged out of Europe by a divisive and dangerous, ugly politics as espoused by UKIP; or one where we can continue with international cooperation on issues like climate change, on banking regulation, tax avoidance. Plaid Cymru’s MEP Jill Evans has worked very hard on making sure that those issues are at the heart of the politics of the European Union and Wales’s voice in that, and there is a very dangerous future for Wales if it opts for the likes of UKIP. So many jobs in Wales depend on us remaining as a partner of the EU and that’s very much where Plaid Cymru sees Wales in the future.

ANDREW MARR:
Alright, Leanne Wood, thank you very much indeed for joining us.

INTERVIEW ENDS