European Parliament election 2009

working together for a
better future

European Parliament election 2009

Scottish Labour
scottishlabour.org.uk
Foreword by Gordon Brown

I believe we can be confident about the prospects for recovery in the next year for Scotland and the world.

We are putting in place now the building blocks for future recovery by investing in families, jobs, and in the key sectors of the economy.

We are giving real support to all - not tax cuts for a privileged few. We are bringing forward investment - not cutting services. And we will stand by those who are worried that they could lose their homes or jobs - not walk on by.

To help families get through this year, we are giving a £145 tax cut to 22 million basic rate taxpayers from April, boosting child benefit, helping pensioners with an extra £50, and increasing pensions, savings and child tax credits all above inflation.

This is what I believe in - helping the many, not just the few, and never walking on by when people need you to stand by them.

We are determined to help people keep their jobs and their homes. We will not walk on by as the Conservatives did in the last recession. That is why we are investing £5 billion in measures to support people who lose their jobs. Plus we are delivering extra investment in skills, and a new package of support for homeowners to help them hold onto their homes, even if they lose their jobs.

But in Scotland, people know that there are no Scotland-only solutions to the global economic crisis. Indeed, I believe there are no Scotland-only solutions to any of the great challenges we face today. We are stronger together; weaker apart.

We know that this global crisis needs a global solution - more trade abroad means more jobs at home. That’s why, alongside President Obama and other world leaders, we agreed the Global Plan for Recovery. Like our national plan, the aims of this global plan are clear: to rescue the savers from the banks; get lending going again; stimulate our economies; and provide real support to families and business.

I know that we face other challenges too - in our communities, not just in our economy. But I believe there is nothing wrong in Britain today that cannot be put right by what is good about our country. We need to support the millions of people who make Britain work – like the three-quarters of the people in this country who regularly volunteer – so instead of talking Britain down, we should be proud of our talent and nurture their potential. You don’t help communities that are under pressure by saying you want to hug them one day and then cutting their support the next.

Any attempt to cut our way out of this recession not only devastates our public services but will simply lead to the recession being deeper and longer. That is why we must grow our way out of this recession while setting out sensible and fair ways of paying our way once the economy is back in shape again. We win our future not by retreating from Europe but by engaging with it; by tapping into the talents of our people, not by writing them off.

This is what I believe in - helping the many, not just the few, and never walking on by when people need you to stand by them.

So, if you share these values too, then vote Labour on June 4th and help us win the fight for Scotland’s future.

Gordon Brown

The Rt Hon Gordon Brown MP,
Leader of the Labour Party
Introduction from Glenis Willmott

Leader of Labour’s MEPs

As the leader of Labour’s MEPs in the European Parliament, I am proud to represent a party which works with European colleagues to improve the lives of people in Scotland. Labour MEPs have a strong record of achieving practical results which make our lives more prosperous, safer and better. Labour has fought hard so that workers in Scotland have the right to guaranteed holidays, mums and dads have more time to spend at home with their kids and we pay less for air travel or phone calls when we are on holiday.

David Martin and Catherine Stihler are respected, hard-working and experienced representatives in Europe, and I know that the Scottish Labour candidates Mary Lockhart, Paul McAleavey, Kirsty Connell and Nasim Khan will provide a formidable campaign team for Scotland.

On the 4th of June voters in Scotland face a clear choice in the European elections - between an outward-looking Labour Party that has influence and alliances in Europe to secure new action in the interests of British people, or a Conservative Party who would put British prosperity and stability at risk by choosing isolation.

There are no Scotland-only solutions to the world economic crisis, so we have to work together for a better future. The voice Scotland has in Brussels as part of the UK is undoubtedly louder than other small countries have.

Whether securing our prosperity, making the goods we buy safer and cheaper or looking after our environment, Labour knows that we achieve more by working with our European allies than going it alone.

Our priority at home and in Europe is to help people through the financial crisis by taking the decisive action needed to create jobs and build a stronger, fairer and safer country. In the face of difficult circumstances there is much to do and we can do more working with European colleagues than thinking we could do better on our own.

By voting Labour on the 4th of June you make the choice for Labour MEPs to continue the battle for a more prosperous, fairer country. By acting decisively and determinedly at all levels - local, national and European – together we will win the fight for the future.

Glenis Willmott MEP
Leader of the European Parliamentary Labour Party

We will be a strong Scottish voice in Europe

Scottish Labour’s European candidates pledge to stand up for the many not the few

In an age of unprecedented change, where globalisation has transformed the world, we are faced with new opportunities as well as new risks and insecurities.

Labour stands resolutely for the hard working majority of the people. Our approach is not just to help people now but to plan for recovery, renew our society, and ensure Scotland can thrive in the future. Only by working together will we win the fight for Scotland’s future.

We are acting on a national and international level to ensure recovery both at home and abroad. Our approach is to build a stronger and fairer Scotland by offering security and opportunity for the many, not the few. Security to see us through difficult times; opportunity to make the most of the chances available.

In these difficult times of economic uncertainty our membership of the European Union is more important than ever, with millions of jobs depending on it. A confident, outward-looking European Union can become a global player, taking advantage of the opportunities of globalisation, protecting us from its dangers and setting a new agenda that emphasises openness, fairness and the importance of cooperation between nations. Isolation and withdrawal have never been the answer and that applies now more than ever.

Labour has a strong record in Scotland, in the UK and in Europe of fighting for measures to improve life for hardworking people. Our decision to sign up to the EU Social Chapter has given new rights and benefits to Scottish workers and their families, including the right to take five weeks paid holiday, more maternity leave and extra parental leave. We have also worked hard in Europe to secure better consumer rights, higher standards and lower prices for people across Scotland.

Labour has a strong record in Scotland, in the UK and in Europe of fighting for measures to improve life for hardworking people. 

Today the threats that countries around the world face are different from those of the past. Thanks to our action in Europe to tackle shared problems, the UK is more secure. We will continue working with European partners to tackle crime, illegal immigration and the threat of terrorism to keep our streets safer.

Together with our partners in Europe we have led the fight against climate change. The commitments we agreed, along with other European countries, have placed the European climate change agreements on the international agenda.

Glenis Willmott MEP
Leader of the European Parliamentary Labour Party
Union firmly at the forefront of the battle against climate change and the drive to build a low-carbon economy.

Working to build a fairer world for all remains central to Labour’s core values. The European Union should and can help spread peace and democracy world-wide.

We know that the European Union needs further reform. Insisting on transparency and reform to secure change in the interests of our citizens will remain one of our priorities in Europe.

But our promise to Scotland is that as your MEPs, we will play our part in providing real help now. We will call for targeted and focused measures, so we can create the stability we need to get us out of the recession.

The choice is clear: Labour is taking action to help families and businesses now and for the future, while for all their vague talk of possible tax cuts, the Conservatives remain firmly rooted to doing nothing.

And in Europe, the SNP’s voice remains small. As part of a large group of centre-left parties across Europe, Labour has the influence and clout to get things done.

Labour has always believed in a fair future for all. And fairness matters even more at a time of profound change such as this: fair chances for all, so that everyone can share in the new benefits that progress brings; fair rules for all, so that no one feels unprotected, so that people have more power over their local communities and services; and a fair deal for all, so that no one is left down or left behind.

Labour stands for the many, not the few. Guided by our values we will create a stronger and fairer future for Scotland and the whole UK – and we will always do what is right by Scotland.

We are living in an age of unprecedented change. Globalisation has brought many benefits and opportunities for people in Scotland and around the world. However, the global economic downturn has also seen new risks and insecurities emerge.

The decisive action that we are taking at home, in Europe, and beyond will get us through the downturn. By working together, marshalling all the resources at our disposal and uniting as a nation, we will move forward to better times.

Labour will take the action necessary to come through these difficult times stronger so that we are prepared for the future. Our immediate priority is to do whatever it takes to give real help to people. Labour believes the government must step in to support people rather than stand idly by and do nothing. Labour will not look back in years to come and say we failed to act and therefore delayed the recovery. Acting now will mean that the recession will be shorter and shallower than it would otherwise be. And we have set out a sensible and fair strategy for paying back what we borrow when the economy is strong enough, one that protects our front line public services.

Our work in Europe is essential for building a fairer future. We will continue using our influence in the European Union to ensure it delivers on the things that matter to people in Scotland - from creating jobs and prosperity to fighting climate change and tackling global poverty.

Our full engagement in the European Union has made an invaluable contribution to the UK’s prosperity and is vital for making sure that we come through the current economic downturn stronger:

- Nearly 60 per cent of our trade is with the rest of Europe
- 3 million jobs are linked to our trade with Europe – one in ten of the UK workforce
- Our EU membership gives our companies full and direct access to almost 500 million consumers – the largest single market in the world
Labour is working to secure a fair future for Scotland but know we can only do that by working together. We stand resolutely for the hard working majority of the people of this country. In this global economic downturn our approach is not just to help people now but to plan for recovery.

Labour is taking decisive action at a local, national and global level to help people through these tough times. We are proving real help now by investing in families, jobs and in the key sectors of the economy. Due to the global nature of this downturn it is more important than ever that we work with our European partners to provide a co-ordinated response to make the recession here at home as short as possible. And we will stand by those who are worried that they could lose their homes or jobs - not walk on by.

So, we are giving real support to all - not tax cuts for the few. We are bringing forward investment - not cutting services. For all the SNP scaremongering over cuts, the Scottish budget will rise by £700 million next year. The challenge for the SNP is to spend it wisely.

Labour believes that when times are tough the government has a duty to step in and support people. This is why we have boosted demand in the economy, putting more money in people’s pockets by cutting taxes and bringing forward government spending, plus extra, targeted support to those hit hardest by the current crisis.

We acted to stop Scotland’s two main banks going bankrupt: not to help inept bankers, but to protect savers from the failings of the bankers.

To support families we brought forward an increase in child benefit and child tax credit. We helped pensioners during the winter months with an extra £60 bonus on top of the increase in the Winter Fuel payment. In order to put more money into the economy Labour has cut income tax by £145 for basic rate taxpayers and cut VAT to save households an average of £275 off their household bills.

Supporting businesses so that they get the credit they need. And to ease pressure on businesses up and down the country, we have allowed them to defer their tax payments on a timetable that they can afford instead of going bust.

Labour is working to secure a fair future for a better future  |  2009

A fair future for all

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While the Conservatives have opposed the new investment into Job Centre Plus, we are investing £5 billion in measures to support people who lose their jobs. We are guaranteeing a job, training or work place to all 18-24 year olds who are unemployed for 12 months. We are increasing statutory redundancy pay. Employers are being given a “Golden Hello” to recruit and train people – although the element for which the SNP have responsibility for is lower than in England. We will not repeat the mistakes of the Tory home-grown recessions of the past where short term unemployment became long term unemployment.

The UK will need to strive harder than ever to accelerate its transformation into a low-carbon economy because the benefits to business and the wider economy will be great. We will not shy away from key questions of the future, such as how we transport ourselves, how we heat our homes and workplaces and Building the economy of the future

The failure of the SNP’s planned funding method for building schools and hospitals is costing Scotland up to 35,000 jobs and starving our construction industry into extinction

We are acting to help ensure that losing your job does not have to mean losing your home. To make paying the bills a little easier Labour has introduced mortgage schemes which provide extra protection to help families stay in their homes if they suffer a temporary fall in income. In contrast, the SNP have refused to provide the same level of homeowners facing repossession than in England.

And at a time of recession David Cameron’s priority is to give an average inheritance tax cut of £200,000 to just 3,000 millionaires.

So, we are giving real support to all - not tax cuts for the few
At a time of recession David Cameron’s stated priority is to give an average inheritance tax cut of £200,000 to just 3,000 millionaires.

and jobs in environmental technologies, digital industries, the creative sector, advanced manufacturing, pharmaceutical, health care and education. To do that, we need to work across Europe. Scotland can be at the very heart of international action. With our world-class universities and world-class workforce, the last thing Scotland needs to look inwards with the SNP. The worldwide economic slowdown is a crisis that requires a global response and the European Union acting together will play an important role. We need a Scottish voice in Europe that is listened to and respected.

To prevent a crisis such as this from ever happening again we will lead in the reform of our global financial system to build a system fit for the twenty-first century, with new international supervision of financial services and improved corporate responsibility for business in Europe and worldwide. We will work with countries all over the world, including our European partners, to secure a new global deal in order to provide the economic security that businesses and families need. That’s why we are calling on countries around the world to:

- Inject resources into their economies
- Work to common principles for financial regulation
- Make changes in their banking system to increase prosperity
- Support reform of global institutions to build a system fit for the twenty-first century

Labour in Europe has been at the forefront of efforts to agree an ambitious and coordinated European recovery plan to deal with the current economic conditions and help better support businesses and families through these difficult times. Leaders across Europe agree; the economic slowdown is no excuse for holding back investment and reform - working together across Europe to introduce better regulation and direct support for families and businesses is the only way forward.

They cut the number of adult apprentices in just a year by 79% and it was only Labour’s demands which forced the SNP, against their will, to fund 8,000 apprenticeships next year. Scottish Labour, by being part of a larger alliance in Europe, can provide the strongest possible voice for Scotland.

Tory cuts vs. Labour investment

By opposing Labour’s boost to the economy, the Conservatives have set themselves against extra money to support families and businesses, as well as investment in communities throughout the country. The Tories are committed not just to spending less in a time of need but also to spend less in the future. By committing his party to cuts David Cameron’s policies would threaten key local services like transport, police and schools. By doing nothing, they would deepen the downturn and delay the recovery.

David Cameron’s ‘do nothing’ approach to the global recession puts him at odds with governments of right and left across Europe. He would isolate Britain in Europe, putting Tory ideology ahead of the needs of the economy and people.

The Choice

SNP delay vs Labour investment

The SNP are just not doing enough to help Scotland through the economic crisis. Their refusal to build schools or hospitals because of their ideological opposition to PPP has already cost Scotland 20,000 construction jobs. Business leaders and trade unions fear another 15,000 are at risk - directly as a result of the SNP’s dogma.

Winning the fight for Scotland’s future

Labour is providing extra mortgage protection so that losing your job does not have to mean losing your home.

Labour has provided £100 million just for Scotland to help employers provide jobs for young people who have been out for work.

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A greener Scotland

**Green jobs in green power**

Climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time. It knows no borders and can only be tackled through concerted international action, including at the European level.

But building a low carbon society presents opportunities as well as challenges. Labour aims to make the UK a leader in green technology, manufacturing and services. The growth of a low carbon economy that uses resources efficiently will be central to our future economic success. Key to this will be the development of a low carbon energy mix – including energy supplies from renewable sources like wind, solar and tidal power – as well as cleaner fossil fuels and nuclear power.

**Winning the fight for Scotland’s future**

Labour is providing extra mortgage protection so that losing your job does not have to mean losing your home.

Labour is stepping up support to get people back into work with new skills and training - we are investing £5 billion in measures to support people who lose their jobs.

Labour has provided £100 million just for Scotland to help employers provide jobs for young people who have been out for work.

Global demand for low carbon solutions will create new jobs, new industries and new export opportunities, helping to tackle the economic downturn and spreading wealth and opportunity. That’s why the European Economic Recovery package put building a low carbon economy in order to create jobs and growth at its heart. It’s also why we, along with our European sister parties, will champion new investment in order to create millions of new jobs in environmental technology and renewable energy sources across the European Union.

Worldwide, it is estimated that environmental industries will be worth $700 billion by 2010 - equal to the size of the global aerospace industry. We want the UK to be the best place in the world to develop and implement low-carbon solutions and to be a magnet for these new jobs. Scotland, with our natural resources and world-class universities, has huge potential to benefit from that investment. While the shift to low carbon will mean change, it has huge benefits for the economy and business, individuals and communities. Labour action to support this transition and to support the growth of new technologies and skills will ensure Scotland is ready to seize the opportunities that will come with change.

**Climate change**

This year will be a decisive one for the battle against climate change. As we approach the Copenhagen summit at the end of this year we need to continue the European Union’s leadership and build momentum globally in order to achieve an ambitious agreement.

The costs of ignoring climate change will, in the long-term, far outweigh the costs of acting now. In 2008 Labour Ministers and Labour MEPs worked hard to secure European agreement for more measures to tackle climate change and ensure energy security. These included:

- A 20 per cent cut in greenhouse gas emissions

To that end we will:

- Actively work to support UK firms in developing the goods and services necessary to meet our environmental targets and to export abroad
- Continue investing in people to ensure they have the necessary skills to make the most of these new opportunities, although the SNP must ensure we have the skills we will need
- Set out a new low-carbon strategy to ensure we remain at the forefront of the global marketplace
- A new obligation on energy suppliers and electricity generators to deliver energy efficiency measures
- Provide support for a massive expansion of renewable electricity
- Leading the development of carbon capture and storage technology for clean fossil fuel use.

**This year will be a decisive one for the battle against climate change**

To winning the fight for Scotland’s future.
by 2020
• A commitment that 20 per cent of the European Union’s energy will come from renewables by 2020
• A strengthened and extended European Union Emissions Trading Scheme
• Making up to €9 billion available for carbon capture and storage
• Radical and mandatory new emissions standards for cars

We will build on this success by:
• Working with our EU partners to achieve a global deal on climate change at Copenhagen
• Developing low carbon technologies across the EU
• Encouraging greener consumer consumption
• Making it easier for industry to invest in low carbon energy with confidence

**Energy security**

Fighting climate change and increasing energy security are closely related. While EU Member States remain responsible for their own energy supplies and resources, by acting together at the European level we can improve energy security for

David Cameron has failed to back the measures needed to provide a secure and stable energy supply for Britain in the future. He flip-flopped on nuclear, while across the country the Conservatives routinely campaign against wind farms.

Labour MEPs and the Labour Government will work to increase Britain and Europe’s energy security by:
• Promoting alternative sources of energy supply internationally
• Improving the trading of energy within Europe’s borders
• Advancing the development of new renewable energy generation
• Working to secure an energy market which can reduce energy bills for families across Scotland

**The Choice**

**SNP inaction vs Labour investment**

The SNP has abandoned Labour’s ground-breaking Wave and Tidal Energy Scheme, and instead say they will award a prize to a company at the end of the next Scottish parliament for work in renewable energy. Scottish Labour believes that a prize can never be a substitute for sustained investment when key programmes are cancelled.

And on the mix of energy we need, the SNP are ignoring the recommendations of their own economic advisers, running the risk of Scotland becoming a net importer of energy, rather than a net exporter.

With Labour in Europe, we have a voice to build new energy technologies, create jobs, and tackle climate change.

**Tory cuts vs. Labour investment**

Labour action has meant that households up and down the country are being helped to reduce both their energy bills and their carbon emissions with insulation and other energy efficiency measures. But the Tories have announced they would cut the Department of Energy and Climate Change’s budget by £80 million.
Today more people than ever before live free from oppression and disease. More people have the chance to go to school and see a doctor and more people live in peace. But we know there is more to be done. By working with leaders around the world to find global solutions to global problems we can build on these opportunities and create a fairer world for all.

Since 1997, fighting world poverty and increasing peace and security have been priorities for Labour. In the current economic climate we will not waiver in our commitment to helping the world’s poorest people but will build on our global leadership to help developing countries work their way out of poverty. In order to do so, we must look beyond governments and build relationships with a wide range of groups, creating a true global society where the concerns of the poorest are the concerns of us all.

From Gleneagles in 2005 to the G20 summit held in London this year, Labour has been at the forefront of leading international efforts to secure a fairer and better world for all. As the world’s largest provider of development aid and the world’s largest trading bloc, the European Union matters for development. These are two reasons why it is more important than ever that we work to ensure that our role in Europe benefits people both at home and abroad. By helping to build stability in insecure areas of the world such as the Middle East and Afghanistan, we will not only improve the lives of thousands of people but will also make Scotland’s streets safer.

We will continue to call for organisations including the United Nations and the World Bank to be reformed so they better reflect the world we live in and are able to tackle the global challenges we face.

The SNP and Tories would choose isolation, but this can never be a real solution. Labour knows that by reaching out beyond our borders and ensuring our role in the world is guided by our values and national interest we can create a fairer society for all.

We will retain our own independent foreign policy but work together with the EU to agree a common position if we believe it is in our best interest. Day by day the EU is working to help spread peace and stability beyond its borders - helping to build a better future in Kosovo, tackling piracy of the coast of Somalia, putting pressure on the regime in Burma, and working for a world trade deal that is in the interests of developed and developing countries alike. The EU can now do more to make a positive difference complementing the existing work of other institutions such as the UN and NATO.

In the current economic climate we will not waiver in our commitment to helping the world’s poorest people.
Fair chances for all

Labour is committed to fair opportunities for all, in tough economic times as well as in times of prosperity

Our help for families is not just about better public services – it’s about the money in your pocket too. That’s why we have increased child benefit and child tax credit, cut VAT and given more back to basic rate taxpayers.

Labour wants to see a fair society, free from discrimination. We have made great progress over the last decade towards securing equality for all, regardless of race, gender, sexuality, disability, age, religion or belief, and we will take this further with our new Equality Bill. Labour MEPs will work to tackle discrimination across Europe.

Our membership of the European Union has had real benefits for British families. The EU has given new rights and benefits for British workers, along with lower prices, greater choice and better quality products for British consumers. Labour will stay engaged at the heart of Europe, leading efforts to create a fairer world for hard-working British people.
Real help for families

Labour believes in giving real help to support families through these tough times. The government has a role to play in making life a little easier for parents whether it be by putting extra money in people’s pockets or helping them achieve a better work-life balance. During the downturn we have responded to the concerns of people who worry that losing their job could mean losing their home. We have worked with banks to introduce new rules so that repossession is always a last resort – although, because of decisions the SNP have taken, people in Scotland have less protection in court repossessions than in England. We have introduced mortgage schemes giving extra protection to help families stay in their homes if they suffer a temporary fall in income. Without this extra help with mortgage payments, thousands more families would face losing their homes.

And because we know times are tough we are giving people a little extra in their pockets. We have increased child benefit and child tax credit. This year, basic rate taxpayers - that’s 22 million people across the UK - will receive a £145 tax cut. And to make goods cheaper in shops we have cut VAT, saving families on average £275 off household bills this year.

Labour has always stood up for hard working families. We championed parental leave, flexible working for parents and greater childcare provision and we will go further as we work to make life easier for Scotland’s parents. We have introduced a Health in Pregnancy grant to give all mums-to-be across the UK a £190 tax free payment from the 26th week of pregnancy.

The SNP are just not doing enough to help families through the recession and are on the wrong side of many of the big issues. The Conservatives have not supported the action Labour is taking to give extra mortgage protection to help families stay in their homes.

Labour has always stood up for hard working families. We must continue to respond to the pressures that parents face in bringing up their families. Labour has taken steps to help families have a better work-life balance, including longer paid maternity leave, paid paternity leave and new rights for parents. Labour has extended the right to request flexible working to parents with children aged up to 16, benefiting an extra 4.5 million people.

Labour has extended paid holiday meaning an employee working a five day week will now enjoy 20 paid holidays on top of public holidays.

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Fair rights at home and at work

The Tories say they want to pull out of the Social Chapter as a matter of priority – turning the clock back years on rights at work

We recognise that doing so is vital to improving families’ living standards, reducing childhood poverty and increasing economic growth.

The Tories have opposed many of our measures which help low paid women most, like the national minimum wage and tax credits. In Europe their pledge to withdraw from the Social Chapter would threaten rights that Labour secured to help women and families, including better maternity rights.

Fair rights at home
Labour is the party of equality. Our vision is of a society where no one is discriminated against because of their race, age, gender, sexuality, religion, beliefs or disability.

We have done more than any other party to support and promote fairness and equality. With our new Equalities Bill we are taking historic action at home to help create a more just society for all.

One of Europe’s greatest strengths is its shared values. We will work to protect these by promoting and delivering a Europe which will help build equality and opportunity for all. That’s why Labour MEPs are leading in Europe to improve anti-discrimination legislation to ensure equal treatment for all people in our society.

Through our membership of the European Union teachers and students alike can benefit from international experience through Socrates and Erasmus programmes. We will continue to encourage young people to take part in European education and training exchanges so they can gain from these international experiences and play their part on the global stage.

Our work at all levels, both at home and in Europe, has led to:

- New Europe-wide laws against discrimination on grounds of gender, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability age or sexual orientation
- A new EU programme to combat violence against women and children
- Improved pay and rights for parents

We will continue working in Europe to secure opportunity for all through fighting to close the gender pay gap as well as promoting job creation, Labour has worked hard both at home and in Europe to secure measures to help hard-working people and protect employees.

When the Labour Government came to power in 1997, one of its first actions was to sign up to the ‘Social Chapter’ which committed itself to an agenda of jobs, training and modernisation. Labour in Europe will work to make sure that this agenda is updated along with seizing opportunities presented by the transition to a low carbon economy to meet current challenges and the needs of people by increasing jobs, investing in people and promoting knowledge, innovation, research and development.

Labour has acted to prevent the unfair treatment of or exploitation of workers across Europe, including protection against unfair discrimination, decent minimum standards for holidays, meal breaks, maternity leave, and safety at the workplace.

Labour knows that a fair society and a strong economy are not opposites but inextricably linked. That is why we will help build a new social Europe together with our social partners, working particularly closely with the trade unions, who share our commitment to putting people first.

As well as promoting job creation, Labour has worked hard both at home and in Europe to secure measures to help hard-working people and protect employees. When the Labour Government came to power in 1997, one of its first actions was to sign up to the ‘Social Chapter’ which introduced:

- The right to take parental leave and time off for urgent family reasons
- New rights and equal
treatment for part time workers
• The right to guaranteed paid holiday
• Greater consultation of employees on issues affecting them
• Additional parental leave in addition to maternity and paternity leave

Labour in Europe has also:
• Worked to promote core labour standards
• Secured improved health and safety measures to protect UK and EU workers
• Agreed new measures that will be implemented in the UK and the rest of Europe to ensure that agency workers have the same basic conditions as permanent workers after 12 weeks in a given job.

As we face the current global downturn, it is vital that flexibility and opportunity is combined with fairness and protection in the labour market. That is why we support and are implementing the European agreement on agency workers.

The Tories have repeatedly voted against measures to help Scottish employees

At this time of global economic uncertainty, our full engagement in Europe is more important than ever so we can push forward the reforms that are essential for our economic future. We should not be throwing into question – as the Conservatives would – the stability of our relationship with Europe and even our future membership of the European Union, risking trade, business and jobs.

We will continue working in Europe to close the gender pay gap as we recognise that doing so is vital to improving families’ living standards, reducing childhood poverty and increasing economic growth.

The Choice

SNP weaknesses vs Labour support
Scottish Labour has always supported and worked for better rights at work, because we know the economy and society must grow together.

The SNP failed to vote for the National Minimum Wage and its commitment to support employees in work has never been strong - there are no trade union or employee representatives on their new council of economic advisers.

On your own Tories vs by your side Labour

David Cameron actively campaigned against the minimum wage, and says abandoning all the rights in the European social chapter is a priority. He does not understand or care about the vital role that trade unions play in supporting people at work and securing their rights.

The Tories have repeatedly failed to support or opposed key measures, like extending maternity, paternity and adoption rights. They do not understand that during an economic downturn, rights at work become even more vital.
Fair rules for all

Labour believes in fair rules for stronger and safer communities. In this new world, it is not just crime that can make people feel insecure.

In such times of rapid and profound changes, people need to feel order in their world and that the rules which underpin it are fair. We are taking the tough and necessary measures on our streets and at our borders to tackle crime, illegal immigration and the threat of terrorism. We know that providing opportunity for all requires security for all. From people trafficking to drug smuggling, crime cuts across borders, which is why we must continue to work with our partners in the EU to protect Britain’s borders and help fight international crime.

We are introducing stronger borders with a single border force and ID cards; the new Australian-style Points-Based System for fairer immigration; and new tougher, but fairer, rules for citizenship.

Labour is proud of Scotland, the UK and we believe our communities are getting stronger. We believe in fair rules for all in a responsible society. By taking the tough action needed at home and in Europe we can make our streets safer and build a safer environment for our children to grow up in.

Our ambitions for people are higher than abandoning them to a life on benefits with no support. We believe in fair rules for all in a responsible society so we are offering a simple deal: more support in return for greater responsibility. Labour believes that there is no right to a life on benefits; that paid work is the best route out of poverty, and that each of us has a role to play in contributing to the society we live in.
Making the EU work for Scotland

The current economic downturn means that our active membership of the European Union is more important than ever for Scotland’s prosperity. More than half of all our trade is with the rest of Europe and millions of jobs are dependent on it. That is why we will continue working hard in Europe to ensure that the EU delivers for Scotland.

David Cameron’s policy of disengagement from Europe leaves the Tories completely unable to tackle the global challenges – including the current economic downturn – that we face.

As well as ensuring the EU contributes to stability and peace worldwide Labour uses its strong voice to ensure that the EU is delivering for people in Scotland. By playing an active, leading role in Europe we have helped to ensure a better deal for people across Scotland securing measures including cheaper travel and phone calls to increased holiday leave and cleaner beaches.

Meanwhile, to support Scottish agriculture, we will press in Europe for further reform of the Common Agricultural Policy to reduce market management, with farmers producing for the market, and the taxpayer paying for the delivery of public goods – particularly environmental ones – which the market cannot provide.

The Choice

SNP isolation vs Labour influence

By being a very small party with just 2 MEPs, the SNP do not have influence in Europe. By contrast, Labour’s role as leading one of the largest EU countries gives Scots a voice we wouldn’t otherwise have.

Tory isolationism vs Labour engagement

Whilst Labour remains fully engaged in Europe, using our influence to achieve change in the interests of Scottish people, David Cameron would sacrifice Britain’s influence in Europe by retreating to the sidelines. Even his own MEPs have described his policy of leaving his mainstream European grouping as ‘ridiculous. Tory isolationism would lead to years of instability: putting jobs, prosperity and British business at risk.

Rights for Scottish consumers

Labour is committed to securing a fair deal for people across Scotland, helping them to benefit from the highest standards and low prices. Our membership of the European Union has already led to lower prices, greater choice and better quality products for Scots. Thanks to the hard work of Labour MEPs the price of domestic phone calls has halved, air travel is cheaper and there is proper compensation for air passengers ‘bumped’ from flights.

Labour in Europe has already secured new measures to help get a fair deal for British families including:

- Stopping mobile phone companies from overcharging you when travelling, by cutting the cost of making calls whilst in another EU country
- Doubling compensation for stranded air and rail passengers
- New rules to protect consumers from rogue traders
- A two year guarantee for shoppers who buy new electronic products.
- Tougher safety standards for toys
- Higher food safety standards including improved labelling systems
- Labour will continue to ensure that the EU delivers for British citizens and will get a better deal for thousands of British people whether they are living in the UK or elsewhere. Labour MEPs will:
  - Support a new consumer rights directive providing for high standards of consumer protection no matter where you are buying from in the European Union, giving consumers the confidence and safeguards to get the best possible deals
  - Work hard to ensure effective implementation of the tough new timeshare directive, protecting British citizens from timeshare touts, scams and rip offs
  - Continue their battle in Europe to secure stronger rights for on-line buyers
Immigration and human trafficking

Labour knows that we all want strong borders. Labour is strengthening our borders with a single border force to guard our ports and airports. We are introducing ID cards for foreign nationals and we are reinstating electronic border controls to count people in and out of the country.

We have introduced the Australian-style points-based system which will make sure we only attract people with the skills our country needs. In response to the economic situation, we have used the flexibility of the points based system to make our criteria more selective.

Labour is steadfast in our determination to tackle people-trafficking.

But ratification of the treaty is only one step in our fight against the trade in people. In the UK we have also:
• Established a dedicated Human Trafficking Centre
• Taken action to help victims of human trafficking
• Launched a UK action plan on trafficking to coordinate efforts across government against trafficking. The plan includes specific measures to help trafficked children.

Scotland would be less secure if we were isolated in Europe. Labour has already secured many measures in Europe to help us fight crime and terrorism including:
• A European Arrest Warrant making it more difficult for criminals to avoid arrest by moving between EU countries. This was used to bring a suspect in the London bombings back to the UK from Italy to face justice. The process took weeks, rather than the months and years it used to take
• A common definition of terrorism which sets minimum levels of jail time across the EU so terrorists can’t escape justice
• New rules on financial transactions to make money laundering and fraud for terrorist purposes much more difficult
• The creation of EUROJUST, an organisation to increase co-ordination between EU countries in tackling serious crime, drug and human trafficking, money laundering and child pornography in Europe
• Exchange of criminal records across the EU so that courts have all the information they need to make judgements

Although the expansion of the EU has led to increased prosperity and security for many across Europe we must not forget those women and children who are victims of the horrendous trade in people. Labour MPs and MEPs have been working hard in Europe and at home to end this horrific crime that trades on human misery and makes our streets less secure.

Labour is steadfast in our determination to tackle people-trafficking

At the end of last year the UK was among the first 20 members of the EU to ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Trafficking. This convention will help to tackle this form of modern day slavery which exploits some of the most vulnerable people in Europe by providing:
• Better support for victims in giving information to police
• Strengthened arrangements for looking after victims
• More support for frontline staff to identify victims of trafficking and offer them support

The Tories talk tough on asylum and immigration but vote soft - repeatedly voting against the measures Labour has taken to control the UK’s borders, including tougher penalties for those who attempt to smuggle people into the country. And Tory claims to be tough on border security have no credibility while they continue to oppose ID cards which will help control our borders and stop fraudulent access to benefits and public services.

The Scottish Labour Party

• The introduction of a new EU-wide law to cut the illegal supply of convertible weapons to the UK

Labour MEPs are currently leading a campaign for the introduction of an EU-wide amber alert system backed up by a missing child hotline. We will continue working to secure this and other measures to build a safer environment for

Scotland would be less secure if we were isolated in Europe

our children to grow up in. We are committed to improving the EUs effectiveness in fighting crime and improving security but we believe that these areas are ultimately a matter of national concern which is why we will retain control over our borders and insist on retaining our right to decide whether to participate in individual EU measures on immigration and asylum. We will only opt-in when it is in the best interests of our nation and citizens.

Tackling crime and terrorism

The Choice

Tory talk vs. Labour action

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The Conservatives have refused to back these vital measures to make the UK more secure, consistently voting against the European Arrest Warrant.

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In these tough economic times, Labour is working to ensure our country remains prosperous and secure - for the many, not the few.

We are taking action now for long-term recovery.

Each and every day, we are taking action to give real help to families and local businesses. We will not abandon people in these tough times - unlike the Tories who would turn their backs on families and businesses at the time they need it most.

We also know that there are no Scotland-only solutions to this economic crisis. Quite simply, we need to work together for a better future. The SNP are not doing enough in Scotland. Scotland should plan for recovery - not for a referendum.

The choice for Scotland is clear - strong, substantial leadership with Labour versus shallow salesmanship from the Tories; Labour’s real help now versus an SNP who are not doing all they can to help Scotland through recession.

**Help us win the fight for Scotland’s future. Help us make a difference.**

Join Scottish Labour today at [scottishlabour.org.uk/join](http://scottishlabour.org.uk/join) and don’t forget to vote Labour on Thursday 4 June.