



# Winning the fight for Britain's future

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European Elections 2009

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# Gordon Brown

**We are living in a period of unprecedented economic challenges, not only in Britain but across Europe and the world**

I know Britain has the strength to fight back against the international recession and our Labour Government is putting fairness at the heart of the fightback: by bringing forward investment, providing help for people threatened with the loss of their jobs and homes, and giving extra support to families and pensioners.

As we look ahead to the European elections on June 4th, we should be confident about the



prospects for recovery in Britain and Europe because we have this clear plan to invest, not cut, our way out of the downturn. At all levels of the Labour Party, locally, nationally and in the European Parliament we are doing whatever it takes to build for a fairer and more prosperous future.

International cooperation has never been more fundamental to our national interest than it is today; this is a global crisis and it requires a global solution. At the G20 in London we saw the world come together to begin the fightback, but there is so much more that we can achieve when we stand strong together.

Europe has led the way in taking joint action to boost growth and jobs and prevent further financial turmoil. So far over £400 billion of stimulus has been injected into the European economy by EU member states. We and our European partners are united in our determination to do all we can to restore growth, save and create jobs and spread prosperity across Europe. And we will continue to work together to support economic recovery, tackle climate change, promote security and create new opportunities for decent and well-paying work.

The Conservative Party rejects the idea of partnership with the EU. They would leave Britain isolated and lacking the power to deliver for the British people. Their

determination not to engage in Europe to fight for Britain would seriously damage British business, which does over half its trade with other EU countries, and which supports over 3 million British jobs.

We in the Labour Party are proud to be strong and influential Europeans. We are now in Europe's mainstream not its slipstream. We also know that being part of an EU of 27 members makes us stronger in the world. We know that the challenges we face today – ranging from climate change to cooperating across borders to detain and arrest criminals – can only be solved in partnership.

The EU, thanks to the hard work of Labour MEPs, has helped deliver stronger rights at work and a better deal for British consumers and families. And where the European Union needs to be reformed, Labour MEPs have shown they are willing to fight and win for Britain's interests.

There is a lot at stake in this election. Let's work to win it not just for the sake of our Party, but for the sake of our country. Together we can win the fight for Britain's future.

*Gordon Brown*

**The Rt Hon Gordon Brown MP,**  
Leader of the Labour Party

# Glenis Willmott

**The European elections are your chance to make sure your voice is heard**

Labour believes in fair chances, a fair say and fair rules for everyone and our record, both in Europe and at home, proves it. These are values vital to the times in which we find ourselves. That is why electing Labour politicians in Europe makes a real difference.

Labour MEPs will continue to stand up for hard-working people in Europe whether through campaigning for lower prices and better standards for British consumers or calling for improved working rights. On June 4 the choice is clear – a progressive outward looking Labour Party who will use our alliances and influence to put Britain's interest first or parties who would put their own ideological obsessions with Europe before the needs of the British people.

*Glenis Willmott*

**Glenis Willmott MEP,** Leader of the European Parliamentary Labour Party





## Winning the fight for Britain's future

**As we face the current economic crisis we will retain our strong international alliances to secure the action needed to create jobs, fight climate change and build a fairer world**

Today we live in an age of unprecedented change. As the economic hurricane sweeping the world has shown, events outside our borders have a direct effect on us here in Britain making our strong engagement in the European Union more important than ever.

As we face the current economic crisis we will retain our strong international alliances to secure the action needed to create jobs, fight climate change and build a fairer world.

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 co-operation between nations. Isolation and withdrawal have never been the answer and that applies now more than ever. By acting decisively and determinedly at all levels – local, national and European – we will win the fight for Britain's future.

Over the last 12 years Labour has been working hard to deliver on what matters to people across Britain. Labour's action, from record investment in education and the National Health Service to making our streets safer, has been driven by our core value of fairness. Now more than ever, in the changing world in which we live and facing unprecedented global economic challenges, that core value will not change. Our priority, as it has always been, is to create a fairer, safer, more prosperous Britain in which everyone can take advantage of their full potential.

Labour has a strong record at home 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 British workers and their families, including the right to take guaranteed 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 Britain.

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, Britain is more secure. We will continue working with our 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 Union firmly at the forefront of the battle against climate change and the drive to build a low-carbon economy. Remaining engaged at the heart of Europe to tackle climate change remains vital to protect our environment for generations to come.

**In these difficult times, isolation and cutting ourselves off from European allies is not the answer. The Conservatives' policies would lead to years of instability in our relations with Europe**

Working to build a fairer world for all remains central to Labour's core values. The European Union should and can be a model power in the world, building on its leading position on international development, climate change and economic reform to help spread peace and democracy worldwide.

We know that the European Union needs further reform. Through the Labour Party's full engagement in Europe we can ensure that

the European Union becomes more effective and accountable to its citizens. Insisting on transparency and reform to secure change in the interests of our citizens will remain one of our priorities in Europe.

In these difficult times, isolation and cutting ourselves off from European allies is not an answer. The Conservatives' policies would require Britain to renegotiate international treaties, leading to years of instability in our relations with Europe that would discourage European firms from investing in the UK.

Labour MEPs have worked closely with our friends in the Party of European Socialists to secure progressive policies – including an agenda of action for these European elections. Unlike Labour's commitment

to maintaining our strong alliances, David Cameron is walking away from the main centre-right group in the European Parliament – reducing Britain's influence in Europe and leaving him isolated from the mainstream.

Unlike the Conservatives we recognise that we are stronger as a leading voice in Europe, increasing our influence in the world through working with European partners to secure new action in the interests of British people.

For all these reasons we will stay engaged at the heart of Europe calling for action to create a fairer world for hard-working British people. Whether securing a better deal for families or action to tackle climate change, Labour will continue working at home and in Europe for a stronger, more prosperous Britain.



## A fair future for all

**Labour is committed to building a fairer and more prosperous country where everyone has the opportunity to make the most of their talents**



Over the last 12 years because of Labour's actions Britain has enjoyed a strong economy and rising living standards. Thanks to these Labour achievements we are in a strong position to tackle the new and unprecedented economic challenges we face today. Working with our European partners will be essential if we are to emerge as a stronger and fairer country.

Faced with these new challenges our aim has not changed. Labour is committed to building a fairer and more prosperous country where everyone has the opportunity to make the most of their talents. Maintaining a strong and stable economy is the only way to provide greater opportunity, jobs, security

and to increase prosperity for British people. We cannot achieve this alone, which is why remaining a strong voice at the heart of Europe is more important than ever.

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
- Three million jobs are linked to our trade with Europe – one in ten of the UK workforce
- Our EU membership gives British companies full and direct access to almost 500 million

consumers – the largest single market in the world

- Being part of the EU has led to lower prices for British citizens in many areas – from travel to mobile phone calls.

We will take action to support business in the UK and help our citizens get the best deal. Labour will focus on strengthening the single market to create new commercial opportunities for British businesses and secure lower prices for people across Britain. Removing the remaining barriers to the single market could mean that the average British citizen finds themselves up to £400 a year better off.

Achieving full employment in Britain has always been at the heart of our action in Europe. The European Union has 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 British people by increasing jobs, investing in people and promoting knowledge, innovation, research and development.

Labour knows that no country has ever prospered by cutting itself off from global trade. So we will work to ensure Britain continues to attract the talents and skills we require – offering better opportunities, experience and a competitive business environment.

As we have shown, we will act to prevent the unfair treatment or exploitation of workers across Europe, including safety at the workplace, decent minimum standards for holidays, meal breaks and working hours,

maternity leave, and protection against unfair discrimination.

Labour supports the proposal by the European Commission to examine the operation of the Posted Workers Directive. Recent European Court of Justice judgements including Viking, Laval and Ruffert, have created uncertainty about workers' rights and collective agreements. We support the proposal that the Social Partners at the European level should review the impact of these judgements to ensure that workers' rights are not undermined.

**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 Europe's and Britain's, economic future**

Just as before, in the new economic climate a successful economic Europe will depend on a successful social Europe. Labour knows that a fair society and a strong economy are not opposites but outcomes that are 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 British employees. When the Labour government was elected 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.

Labour will support the development of a European wide strategy designed to create a sustainable manufacturing policy for smart green growth and jobs which will help make Europe a world leader in innovation, new green technologies and products. This would build upon the EU's existing Lisbon Strategy to make Europe into the most dynamic and competitive knowledge-based economy in the world, capable of sustainable economic growth with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion.

We will also continue to promote policies to protect the most vulnerable people during the economic recession and beyond, including working to ensure that social and environmental impact assessments are taken into account

when developing European legislation.

The UK's flexible labour market has helped create three million jobs. As we face the current global downturn, it is vital that flexibility and opportunity are combined with fairness and protection in the labour market. That is why we support and are implementing the European agreement on agency workers.

Unlike Labour's commitment to securing measures to help workers and families through these difficult times, the Conservatives have said they would withdraw from the Social Chapter putting rights from increased paid holiday to better parental leave at risk.

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 Europe's and Britain's 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.



## Tackling the credit crunch

The global economic downturn is affecting people in every part of Europe and across the world. As we stand at a decisive moment for Britain, we will marshal all our resources and work nationally and internationally, including in Europe, to help us move forward to better times.

We know that the economic crisis is about people's lives and livelihoods. That's why Labour has taken decisive action to help support families and businesses through this economic downturn including:

- Kick starting the economy through a fiscal stimulus
- Reducing VAT to give extra help to families
- Extra help for the most vulnerable and low earners including a tax cut for 22 million basic rate taxpayers and extra money for pensioners
- Increases in child benefit and child tax credit
- Working at home and abroad to get lending going again to families and businesses who want to invest and create jobs
- Supporting small businesses through reducing administrative burdens, enhancing

- access to finance, ensuring prompt payment, and improved public procurement
- Stepping in with a banking rescue scheme to protect people's savings and jobs
- Investing to encourage employers to recruit people without jobs
- Stepping up the training and support people need to get back to work
- Extra mortgage protection for homeowners if they suffer a temporary loss of income
- New measures of support to help the car industry, including action to unlock loans of up to £1.3 billion from the European Investment Bank.

The worldwide economic slowdown is a crisis that requires a global response and the European Union acting together will play an important role. 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 21st 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 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 21st century
- Take action to outlaw shadow banking systems and offshore tax havens to protect people's savings across the world.

Labour in Europe has been at the forefront of efforts to agree an ambitious and co-ordinated European recovery plan to deal with 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, fiscal stimulus and direct support for families and businesses is the only way forward.

In principle we are in favour of membership of the single currency; in practice we have always been clear that we will only join the single currency if it is in Britain's interest to do so and if the five key economic tests we identified in 1997 have been met. We will continue to review the situation at future Budgets.

To tackle global challenges we will also strengthen and reinvigorate the transatlantic alliance. Europe must work with the USA so that we all emerge stronger at this time of economic uncertainty. What we can achieve in

partnership to stimulate the economy, will be greater than any single country or continent can achieve on its own. We will not stand by, as the Conservatives would do, and leave families to face up to economic problems alone but will take the tough decisions necessary to support families through these turbulent times.

**We will work with countries all over the world, including our European partners, to secure a new global deal to provide the economic security that businesses and families need**

All across Europe and the world, leaders have taken similar action to the Labour Government, injecting money into their economies to tackle these financial challenges. The Conservatives are isolated in Europe in their response to the economic crisis. By opposing the fiscal stimulus, David Cameron has shown not only that he is out of touch with other major European leaders but also that the Conservatives are against our efforts to help families and businesses through the financial downturn. They are committed not just to spending less in a time of need but also to spend less in the future. By doing nothing, they would deepen the downturn and delay the recovery, just as they did in the recessions of the 1980s and 1990s. They would make Britain weaker not stronger for the future.



## Building towards a low carbon economy and tackling climate change

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 the threat of climate change presents us with opportunities as well as challenges.

Transforming our economy and moving to a low carbon economy is the route to our future prosperity. 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 and why we, along with our European sister parties, will champion new investment to create millions of new jobs in environmental technology and renewable energies 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. At home and at the European level, Labour is working to support British businesses in developing the goods and services necessary to secure a leading role for Britain in the new worldwide green markets. 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
- Set out a new low-carbon strategy to ensure we remain at the forefront of the global marketplace.

Faced with economic turbulence we will ensure that our policies help those who need it most. That's why we will work to make sure that European environmental and energy policies help the poorest and most vulnerable people.



This year will be a decisive one in 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.

Domestically we have taken action to address climate change with our groundbreaking Climate Change Act which set the world's first legally binding long term framework for transition to a low carbon economy.

But domestic action alone is not enough. Unlike the Conservatives who would isolate Britain in Europe, Labour knows that it is only through working with our international partners that we can hope to reduce the threat that climate change poses both to developed and developing countries.

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 all and ensure that household energy bills remain affordable. Dependence on oil and gas imports from unstable parts of the world mean that it is more important than ever that Europe speaks with one voice when negotiating with major producers such as Russia. 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 a liberalised energy market, to help reduce energy bills for families across the UK and create thousands of jobs.

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 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 through action such as our proposed cut in VAT on environmentally-friendly domestic goods
- Making it easier for industry to invest in low carbon energy with confidence.

### What Labour's engagement in Europe has meant for improving the environment and fighting climate change:

- Improved environmental standards providing a safer, cleaner environment for children to grow up in and holidaymakers to enjoy
- Today our rivers and beaches are the cleanest they have ever been thanks to minimum EU standards
- Higher recycling targets meaning less waste throughout Europe
- Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions through higher quality petrol and diesel fuels
- Protection of vulnerable habitats with rare animals and plants through a Europe-wide scheme



# Giving everyone a fair chance

Labour is committed to securing a fair deal for people across Britain, helping them to benefit from the highest standards and low prices



## Supporting hard-working people

Labour is committed to securing a fair deal for people across Britain, 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 British people. 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 cash compensation for stranded air and rail passengers
- Reduced car prices in the UK by securing new rules to increase competition and flexibility
- 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 online buyers.

## Equal opportunity for all

Labour is the party of equality. Our vision for Britain 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 great 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 groups.

We have also worked in Europe to improve opportunities for young people. 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

We will continue working in Europe to secure opportunity for all through:

- Fighting to close the gender pay gap as we recognise that this is vital to improving families' living standards, reducing childhood poverty and increasing economic growth
- Working closely with our European and global partners to eradicate human trafficking and sexual exploitation through closer judicial and police co-operation.

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 rules for all

Under Labour our country has got stronger and safer. We know that providing opportunity for all needs security for all



## A safer Britain

Under Labour our country has got stronger and safer. We know that providing opportunity for all needs security for all – on our streets, at our borders and against the threat of terrorism. Since 1997 crime has fallen by a third and our communities are getting

stronger. We are not the broken society that the Conservatives claim we are. Instead of talking down the achievements of our police and communities as they would do we believe in the strength of our citizens and society.

But we are not complacent. Some things

need to change. From people trafficking to gun crime, many of the crimes we see on our streets are connected to the rest of Europe and beyond. We need a strong, united Europe to help make Britain's streets safer. There is no question that Britain will ever lose its power over our own criminal justice and immigration system but 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.

Today the threats that countries around the world face are different from those of the past. Terrorist attacks from Mumbai to Madrid and from Bali to New York have shown that no-one is immune from the threat of terrorism. The tragic events of 2005 here in Britain have demonstrated this all too clearly. Fighting terrorism and international crime alone is impossible. We depend, as never before, on other states for intelligence and they rely on us. By working together with our European neighbours we are safer and stronger, protecting our citizens and the freedoms they enjoy.

We are committed to improving the EU's 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.

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

## Britain would be less secure if we were isolated in Europe

Labour MEPs are currently leading a campaign for the introduction of an EU-wide missing child 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 our children to grow up in.

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

### Everyone playing by the rules

Labour knows that migration has brought many benefits to the UK and that carefully controlled migration is good for the prosperity of us all. We have a proud tradition of providing a safe haven for those who are fleeing persecution. We will continue to pursue managed migration within Europe's borders including efforts to promote integration and guarantee fair treatment for legal migrants.

**One of the men convicted of the 21/7 attempted bombings in London was brought to justice despite escaping to Italy in the days after the attack. Before the European Arrest Warrant it would have taken years of protracted legal process to have him extradited to Britain to face trial, now because of agreement by EU countries, he was returned to Britain within weeks of arrest to face justice in a British court. He is now serving a life sentence.**

But we will not tolerate people who come to Britain illegally. Our new Australian style points-based system will create a fairer system for all, help prevent illegal immigration and attract people with the skills our economy needs. We know that we cannot hope to create secure borders without a concerted global response. That is why we have worked with our EU partners to build on our firm action to tackle illegal immigration at home, including:

- Securing powers to share information across the EU to prevent multiple asylum applications. Thanks to this measure the UK removes around 130 asylum seekers per month
- Drawing up a comprehensive framework for combating illegal migration during the UK Presidency of the EU in 2005

### Fighting people trafficking

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.

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

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 through our funding for the Poppy scheme which provides support for trafficked women
- Launched a UK action plan on trafficking to coordinate efforts across government against trafficking. The plan includes specific measures to help trafficked children



## Making the European Union work for Britain

**Our aim is to achieve a modern, outward-looking EU, enabling us to respond to the challenges of globalisation and deliver opportunity and fairness for all**

Over the last five years the European Union has expanded from 15 to 27 members. To make sure this new European Union works effectively and is able to tackle the new challenges we face today we need to update the way it works. That is why, just like nearly every other country in the European Union, Britain has ratified the Lisbon Treaty so that the EU can deliver in areas that matter to British people such as jobs and prosperity, climate change and our international influence.

The Lisbon Treaty must be approved by every country before it can come into effect. In 2008 the Republic of Ireland held a referendum and narrowly voted against the treaty. There is no question of ignoring this vote or bulldozing Irish opinion. It is up to the Irish to decide what Ireland does next and on that basis for the rest of the EU to collectively consider ways forward that allow it to focus on the big policy issues that we face.

We know that the EU needs to make changes in the way it operates, which is why we will be working hard to ensure that the European Union works effectively and delivers for British citizens. Labour MEPs and the Labour Government will continue leading a campaign calling for one seat for the European Parliament, not only reducing costs but helping to fight climate change through reducing carbon emissions.

Labour in Europe is working hard to deliver for the people of Britain and we have led the way in ensuring transparency. British Labour MEPs have all their office and staff expenditure reviewed by an independent auditor.

We will also continue to work for reform to the EU budget and agree a new approach able to

meet today's challenges. That's why Labour will continue to be a strong voice calling for reform to the Common Agricultural Policy. Our aim is to achieve a modern, outward-looking EU, enabling us to respond to the challenges of globalisation and deliver opportunity, fairness and prosperity for all.

David Cameron has said he will "not let matters rest" if the Lisbon Treaty is ratified by all 27 members of the European Union. This would lead to years of instability – putting jobs, prosperity and British business at risk. As he well knows, the only way to reopen negotiations on a ratified treaty would be to renegotiate Britain's entire relationship with the EU, leading to years of instability and damaging British jobs and British business.



**Did you know? Because of our engagement in Europe:**

- When you're on holiday in the EU you're entitled to free emergency healthcare
- British full-time workers have the right to increased paid holiday a year
- Young people have the chance to study or work in another EU country
- You can draw your pension in any EU country, allowing you to enjoy your retirement with peace of mind
- Environmental standards have been driven up – meaning we enjoy the cleanest ever beaches and rivers
- British families pay less for many products from cars and air travel to international phone calls
- Consumers enjoy higher standards in many areas from toys to food
- Tough new measures to tackle international crime have been introduced, including the European Arrest Warrant



## A fair world for all

By remaining fully engaged with partners in Europe and worldwide we can achieve our goals in this new world

In an increasingly interdependent world many of the major international challenges we face can only be solved by working with and through the European Union. This is truer than ever as we face new challenges but also unprecedented opportunities. By remaining fully engaged with partners, in Europe and worldwide, we can achieve our goals in this new world.

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.

From Gleneagles in 2005 to the G20 summit

held in London this year, Labour has been at the forefront of 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 our role in Europe benefits people both at home and abroad.

Those countries in the developing world that have reduced poverty in the last 30 years have done so by also increasing economic growth. In Europe, Labour will continue to call for reforms to the global trading system to spread prosperity and make development sustainable in the knowledge that by speaking and acting together we are stronger. In regional and bilateral trade agreements with

## Labour has been at the forefront of international efforts to secure a fairer and better world for all

developing countries we will work with the European Union to ensure that development concerns are central to the negotiations. We will continue to push for trade deals that are fair and promote development while working to ensure that all EU free trade agreements and economic partnership agreements have suitable human and social rights clauses. We will continue to fight for flexibility in the EU Economic Partnership Agreements and strongly support trade policies and agreements being based on research and analysis of their likely social, economic and environmental impacts.

We will also work at home and in Europe

to promote and raise awareness of fair trade measures, encouraging sustainable development and helping to guarantee decent work and wages for those in the developing world, contributing to improving the lives of millions of people worldwide.

Our strong relationship with other EU countries complements our vital relationship with the United States. The new administration in the United States has made it clear that it sees its relationship with the EU as vital for the future and for securing progress in world trade talks and fighting climate change. To increase security and prosperity we need a strong European Union. Both as part of the EU and bilaterally we will work closely with the United States to help increase prosperity and opportunities for all of our citizens.

NATO will remain the cornerstone of our collective defence but we believe, just like President Obama, that strengthening the EU's capacity is an opportunity not a danger and is a vital tool in creating a safer world.

The EU is already making a difference to international peace and security, with practical support for governments in places such as Afghanistan and the Balkans. However, we recognise that more can be done. We will continue to press other European countries to share the burden in Afghanistan to help fight the Taliban and make our streets safer.

The EU has also had an important role in increasing security and democracy within and around its own borders. Enlargement has been one of the greatest European success stories over the last 20 years bringing increased prosperity and opportunity to people across Europe. We will continue to support expansion

to include countries such as Turkey as long as appropriate standards are met.

Unlike our engagement in Europe which has led to a stronger voice for Britain in the world, the Tories threaten isolation. David Cameron's decision to withdraw his party from the largest centre-right party in Europe has already been criticised by world leaders such as Nicolas Sarkozy and Angela Merkel. This would make it harder to deliver on promises to fight climate change and international poverty.

Britain in the EU has:

- Successfully called for more pressure to be put on governments across the world, such as Zimbabwe and Burma, who are failing to uphold human rights, through measures including sanctions
- Worked with other EU partners to secure a ceasefire within three days of the outbreak of hostilities in Georgia and supported a 200 strong civilian observation mission to help support peace building
- Helped to support free and fair elections across the world by participating in election monitoring missions to unstable parts of the world, including Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo
- Called for and secured reforms to make EU aid more effective
- Secured a force to combat piracy off the coast of Somalia.

We will continue to be a strong voice at the heart of Europe calling for:

- Action to reform the Common Agricultural Policy
- Trade agreements with developing countries to serve as a real tool for the economic and social development of the countries and regions concerned with respect for human rights and international

- labour standards at their core
- Other European countries to fulfil their promises to achieve the Millennium Development Goals
- Further enlargement of the EU to include countries such as Turkey and Croatia when the appropriate requirements have been met
- Reform of global institutions including the UN, European Investment Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the World Bank to ensure they are better equipped to deal with the challenges of the 21st century
- Co-ordinated action to help make progress towards achieving peace in the Middle East.



# The Conservative threat

**Labour is the only party that will put British interests first, working in Europe to build a safer, stronger and more prosperous Britain for all**

In today's turbulent economic times the Tories' 'do nothing' approach and their policies of isolation and withdrawal in Europe would make Britain weaker not stronger for the future.

Labour knows, along with other European partners, that the right and only way to tackle the financial crisis is by taking decisive action now. Just like Labour, leaders across Europe and the world, including President Obama, have recognised the importance of injecting money into their economies. Yet the Conservatives oppose our fiscal stimulus – setting themselves against providing real help now for families and businesses. By doing nothing, they would deepen the downturn and delay the recovery, just as they did in the recessions of the 1980s and 1990s.

Not only are the Tories unwilling to help people through the downturn, they are now abandoning their attempts to move towards the centre. They have ditched their pledge to match Labour's spending plans, instead going back to making cuts in public services.

The Conservative attitude to Europe and their European policies, labelled 'absurd' and 'crackpot' by Shadow Business Secretary Ken Clarke, would undermine Britain's standing in the world and create instability in our trading relations with Europe.

David Cameron is willing to sacrifice Britain's

influence in Europe by withdrawing his party from the main centre-right grouping in Europe, which includes world leaders such as France's President Sarkozy and Germany's Chancellor Merkel. This could leave Conservative MEPs joining forces with fringe right-wing parties and unable to stand up for Britain's interests. Ken Clarke has even warned that the Conservatives' extreme ideology on Europe could put Britain's relationship with the USA at risk.

At the same time, David Cameron's Conservatives want to renegotiate international treaties to pull Britain out of the European Social Chapter. Not only would this put rights from paid holiday to increased parental leave, under threat, but it would put Britain's whole place in Europe at risk, discouraging firms across the continent from investing in the UK.

**In today's turbulent economic times the Tories' 'do nothing' approach and their policies of isolation and withdrawal in Europe would make Britain weaker not stronger for the future**

Emerging stronger through these difficult times requires strong leaders willing to take the decisions that matter and engage fully with the rest of the world. David Cameron's 'do nothing' approach to the global recession puts him at odds with governments of right and left across the world. Now he wants to isolate Britain further, putting Tory ideology ahead of the needs of the British economy and British people.

But the Conservatives are not the only party who would put their ideology before the needs of British people. The Liberal Democrats are obsessed with being seen as good Europeans, whatever the consequences for Britain. In

Scotland the Nationalists' commitment to a messy divorce from the rest of the UK would mean renegotiating our entire relationship with Europe – jeopardising the prosperity and jobs of people across Scotland. In Wales Labour recognises that in order to tackle the financial downturn, Wales needs to be a fully active part of two strong unions, a strong UK and a strong Europe, to safeguard the jobs and businesses we have and to create new jobs wherever we can.

Labour is the only party that will put British interests first, working in Europe to build a safer, stronger and more prosperous Britain for all.



