

The Liberal Democrats, with their colleagues from the other European countries, hold the balance of power in the European Parliament. This means that the Liberal Democrat Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) elected by you in 1999 can point to some real achievements in Europe since the last European Parliament elections in 1999. Inside are just a few...



The 11 UK Liberal Democrat Members of the European Parliament are the largest national group in the European Liberal, Democrat and Reform (ELDR) Group of 52 MEPs from eleven European countries. The ELDR Group holds the balance of power in the European Parliament, which has an important role in making European laws. More information is available at <http://eld.europarl.eu.int> and www.libdems.org.uk

What Have the Liberal Democrats in Europe Ever Done for Us?



Since 1999, European Liberal Democrats have:

Banned Advertising Cosmetics Tested on Animals

European Liberal Democrat Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) consistently voted to ban advertising of most cosmetics tested on animals, and all advertising of animal-tested cosmetics by 2004. Despite fierce opposition from other political parties, they successfully won this ban.

Ensured a Genuinely Independent European Food Safety Authority

Votes from Liberal Democrats were particularly crucial in ensuring that the new European Food Safety Authority would be genuinely independent. Others had proposed that it would need to secure funding from the food industry – the very people it will be responsible for regulating! European Lib Dems believe keeping the food we eat safe is vital and must be kept independent.

Set Ambitious Targets for Recycling Electrical and Electronic waste.

European Liberal Democrats fought successfully for tough targets for recycling electrical and electronic waste. Amendments put forward by the European Liberal, Democrat and Reform (ELDR) Group of MEPs from eleven countries encouraged the setting up of household collection facilities for electrical waste. ELDR support also made it more difficult to produce electrical goods which cannot be re-used or re-cycled.

Encouraged more use of sustainable energy

Liberal Democrats succeeded in setting new targets for using renewable energy. This will help cut down the use of fossil fuels like burning oil and gas – and instead use cleaner energy like wind power and solar energy.

Cheaper Internet access

Under a deal organised by Lib Dem MEPs, high-speed internet access will be opened up to competition – making it cheaper. It will also make it easier for many more people to have high-speed internet access. As a result of Liberal Democrat votes in

Europe, local residents will have more choice of high-speed internet service providers, and a cheaper service.

Made European Skies Safer for Planes

ELDR led the European Parliament to approve proposals which will get air traffic controllers from different European countries to work more closely together – making skies safer, and cutting down delays. Aeroplanes crossing Europe often fly over several different countries and it makes sense to work closely together.

Supported people with disabilities

Across a whole range of legislation, European Liberal Democrats have consistently fought to ensure that the particular circumstances of people with disabilities are taken into account. As part of this, Lib Dems took the lead in the European Parliament in making arrangements for the European year for People with Disabilities in 2003.

Promoted human rights across the world

The European Union and its countries are the largest donors of international aid. ELDR has highlighted human rights violations in many countries, including the Democratic Republic of Congo, Cambodia and Vietnam.

Improved the Common Agricultural Policy

European Liberal Democrats have long campaigned for reform of the European

Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). They have now succeeded in proposing changes which will mean better financial management of CAP funds, as well as distributing CAP money more evenly, by diverting funds towards those who currently receive least from it.

Improved Fishing in Europe

Lib Dems have played a leading role in improving fishing in Europe. ELDR demands for more effective controls have gained widespread support from across the political spectrum.

