



European Elections 2019: A briefing for candidates

# WILL YOU HELP TO RE-PROTECT EUROPE?

As a member of the European Parliament you will help determine the future of Europe at a crucial time for people and the environment.

Fighting climate change, improving air quality, protecting unique natural places, ending plastic pollution and stopping toxic chemicals from reaching the market: EU laws have kept us safe for years.

But European regulations are prized protections that you will need to defend.

### **Deregulation** threatens our rights and interests

EU regulations drive up standards, encourage competition and give us confidence in the products we buy. Rather than being a threat to business, **reputable companies value good rules**, which ensure a level playing field on which they can thrive.

**74% of Europeans** are worried about the impact of plastic on their health and **87%** are worried about the impact on the environment.

### Healthy competition in a safe and fair market

No company should be making its profits by polluting more than its competitors. **EU regulations are important** and help to protect businesses, consumers and the environment from unfair or dangerous practices.

The EU's Industrial Emissions Directive provides essential environmental and safety standards for more than **50,000 industrial facilities** across Europe.

When the EU's nature laws were threatened, **more than half a million EU citizens** objected, The European Parliament stood up to protect Europe's precious wildlife.

## The European Parliament can re-protect Europe

The world faces unprecedented challenges. Instead of stripping back or cutting regulations, **the EU must take a lead once again.** Environmental crimes must not go unpunished, polluters must pay and people must be protected.

As an MEP it will be your job is to stand up for EU laws that protect our rights and interests. Rather than throwing away regulations that protect us, we need you to promote and defend sensible regulation that once again protects what we hold dear. We call this 're-protection' and we

are asking you to help

re-protect Europe.



## We can be safer and healthier with the right EU

#### Climate change

In 2018 the EU raised its target for cutting CO2 emissions from passenger cars. The European Parliament rejected an initial proposal of 30% and negotiated a higher target of 37.5%, cutting carbon and improving the quality of the air we breathe. **An ambitious European Parliament will do more to tackle dangerous climate change.** 

#### Health

People are suffering from previously treatable diseases as dangerous bacteria become resistant to lifesaving drugs. The EU could step in to protect antibiotics by limiting their use on farms. The European Parliament can help to write laws that protect our health and reduce pharmaceutical pollution.

#### Money

The EU has a world-leading chemicals regulation designed to protect human health and the environment from harmful substances. Despite this, dangerous chemicals still make it onto the European market. We need a European Parliament that protects citizens with effective chemicals regulation.

#### **Chemicals**

The European Parliament must approve the EU Budget. That's €140 billion every year that could be used to fight climate change, protect nature and address other pressing concerns. We need a European Parliament that ensures that EU money is spent responsibly.

## Your commitment to re-protect Europe

Europe is at a crossroads. Voters are looking to understand what candidates believe in, and whether you'll stand up to re-protect Europe.

This May, use your candidacy to protect what you care about - the wellbeing of you and your family, your community and your environment - and be the candidate who will uphold and strengthen EU protections.

#### What can I do?

Use social media and the hashtag #ReProtectEurope to tell us how you want the EU to protect citizens' health, rights and environment.

For more information eeb.org/eu2019 meta.eeb.org

#### Supported by:

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<u>Carbon Market Watch</u>

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