

Green MEP Keith Taylor and Palestine

Keith Taylor is a member of the European Parliament's delegation to Palestine and has visited the Occupied Territories. As part of his work, Keith has called for Israel to end its practice of detaining Palestinians without charge, and has supported his constituents in boycott campaigns relating to goods made in illegal Israeli settlements. Keith has long campaigned for the recognition of Palestine and has put his name to a successful Resolution calling on the European Parliament to recognise Palestine as a state.

Joining up the policies

So what do war, terrorism, food policy and the oil industry have to do with each other? If we didn't depend on oil from the Middle East, we wouldn't need to invent reasons to go to war there when supply lines are threatened. If we weren't involved in wars in the Middle East, terrorism here would lose its raison d'être. With less fossil fuel we would have to expand renewables and grow more of our own food, making us far less vulnerable to blockade in any future war. Security policy is not just about tanks, it's also about acting responsibly and building resilience at home.

It's another virtuous circle..

EUROPE

The Green Party recognises that the UK is part of Europe and that we cannot cut ourselves off from our geography or its political realities. Our message on Europe is positive, not based on fear and nostalgia.

Much EU action has been progressive: safeguarding basic rights, peace and security achieved through mutual understanding, environmental protection, the spread of culture and ideas, and regulation of the financial system. And in other areas, such as welfare policy, open discussion and coordination are useful.

However, we prioritise local self-reliance rather than the EU's unsustainable economics of free trade and growth. We would not adopt the Euro, which cannot work properly without much deeper political integration, and this would be contrary to our policy of subsidiarity.

We support the proposal to have an in–out referendum so that the British people can have their say. This is because much has changed since the UK joined the Common Market in 1974. Endless debate on membership is a diversion from more important matters, such as ending inequality and adapting our economy to One-Planet Living.

So it's yes to Europe, yes to reform of the EU but also yes to a referendum. This is the policy that led to the election of an additional Green MEP, Molly Scott Cato, in the South West last year.

MIGRATION

Migration is a fact of life. People have always moved within countries and between countries. Much of the UK's language, culture and way of life has been enriched by successive new arrivals over thousands of years. Most families living here will have members of their extended family who live abroad or include members who were born abroad – 5 million British citizens live abroad, around 2 million of them in the EU. We take it for granted that we can move to live where we like within our country, and increasingly within Europe and further afield, as others do.

Much of the time, migration is voluntary, is on a relatively small scale and is a positive benefit for all concerned. But, increasingly, people are being forced to move because:

- Climate change affects their environment so that it can no longer support them;
- The economic opportunities in their home country are so limited that they leave home to work abroad; or
- War, natural disasters or political repression lead them to become refugees.