

# **2019 European Election Manifesto**

**Easy Read version**



Welcome to our Manifesto for the European Parliament elections in 2019.

This vote is the most important European election ever held in Scotland. And it is the chance Scotland has been waiting for our voice to be heard – here at home and across Europe.

This election is a chance for Scotland to make clear we say no to the bad ideas that have driven the Brexit debate. Scotland faces being dragged out of the European Union even though most Scots voted to remain. All our efforts to be heard on Brexit have been met with a brick wall.

The SNP wants Scotland to be part of an EU that protects worker's rights and our environment. Being able to sell our goods and services to the EU is needed for our businesses, and for our farming and fishing industries.

The plans we have to fight climate change will be easier to carry out if we can work together with other EU countries. The plans in this manifesto are designed to make the lives of everyone in Scotland better, and to make the EU work better for all of our citizens.

On May 23rd in the European Election we can send a message that we will not accept a Brexit process that ignores our votes and fails to represent the people of Scotland.

The EU has been working hard for Europe's peace and well-being for many decades. We know the EU is not perfect but Scotland can help to make it better.

The SNP is Scotland's voice in Europe. We will keep working with others across the UK to stop Brexit. We will support a People's Vote that offers the choice to Remain. And if the UK is heading for a no-deal Brexit we'll back revoking Article 50.

And we will make sure that Scotland's future is not left to the Westminster Government to decide. We want people to have the choice of a future for Scotland as an independent, European nation.

Scotland's for Europe. Let's make that loud and clear on May 23. Vote SNP.

## Scotland in the EU



Scotland has always been a European nation. Our culture, history, trade and international alliances have long depended on relations with our near neighbours.

Europe helps to make us a modern, optimistic, multicultural country. It is also about the values we think are important - freedom, democracy, the rule of law, equality, human dignity and human rights.

In our world today, these values are in danger because of prejudice and extremism. But they are values that we must fight for and stand up for – and the SNP will always do so.

## Why does the EU matter to Scotland?



EU membership is very important to Scotland. In 2016, most of the people of Scotland voted to remain within the European Union, in every council area.

Since then the SNP has worked with other parties in the European Parliament, Scottish Parliament and at Westminster to defend the interests of Scotland.

Membership of the European Union is right for Scotland. It is made up of independent countries, coming together to work for the common good. And while not perfect, it is one of the world's most forward-looking economic and social communities.

We believe that the best way to build a wealthier and more equal Scotland is to be a full independent member of the EU.

## Good things about being in the EU:

- **Peace and stability** - The European Union has brought peace and well-being across Europe. It has advanced democracy and worked to help all countries to have better governments.

The EU has been especially good for small countries. Almost half of the members are countries around the same size or smaller than Scotland. They are all equal partners. MEPs are an important part of decision making in the EU.

- **Jobs and funding** - Around 300,000 Scottish jobs rely on the EU. Every community and part of our economy has benefited from our membership. Money from Europe has supported major building projects like the Aberdeen Peripheral Route. It has also allowed the Scottish Government to make more college places and give extra training to young people.
- **Trade and regulation** - The EU, which is home to over 500 million citizens, is one of the world's largest single markets - eight times the size of the UK. Free trade within the EU is needed for many Scottish businesses, and the EU rules protect the rights and safety of workers.
- **Food, farming and the environment** - The food we eat, the air we breathe and the water we drink: all of these are better because we are a member of the EU. Scotland has been working with the EU on climate change and protecting wildlife. Losing these projects and high environmental standards would be a disaster for our environment and our wellbeing.
- **Freedom of movement** - As UK citizens in the EU we can live, work and study across the whole of Europe with no barriers and no difficult paperwork. Anyone can choose to move to another EU country and have the same rights and benefits as the people who live there. So, if you retire to Spain, you will still get your pension.

Many people from the EU work and live in Scotland. They make up a huge part of our public services, like the NHS, our universities and our industries like meat and fish processing, farming and tourism. Rural Scotland relies heavily on people from the EU and many sectors are already very short of staff.

The SNP wants the UK to remain in the EU. But we know from the past that Westminster does not always want the same things as Scotland.

That is why it would be better to be one of the EU's small independent nations. Independence would bring a huge change for the better. The EU nations, from the largest to the smallest, have come together to share control for the common good, on the basis of equality and common values.

The respect and support that smaller nations like Ireland get from the EU is the opposite of what Scotland gets from Westminster. That is why it is now time for Scotland to become a truly equal partner across the British Isles and in the EU.

It is time to take our place among the family of independent European nations.

## **What is most important to us:**

- **We will keep working with others across the UK to stop Brexit**
- **We are backing a People's Vote that will give the choice to remain**
- **We will give people the choice of a future for Scotland as an independent, European nation**
- **We will back revoking Article 50 if a no-deal Brexit is the only other option**

# What does the EU do for me?

## EU citizenship



The SNP believe that Scotland is much better off because people from EU countries live and work here, and because Scots have free movement to live and work in other EU countries.

People from the EU who have chosen Scotland as their home deserve better than a Tory Brexit. EU citizens are an important part of our economy, our public services and our communities - and Scotland is happy to have them here.

But Brexit has meant that the 235,000 Europeans who live here are forced to apply to stay in their homes and their jobs. They could be split from their partners and children. With a no-deal Brexit, there is a risk they could be forced to leave.

The SNP has spent £800,000 on advice and support services for people affected by the changes to immigration rules caused by Brexit. We have also promised free tuition to EU students in 2020/21, even if there is a no-deal Brexit. The UK government is yet to do the same.

We will keep fighting for European Scots and their families, and for the power to make migration rules that are right for Scotland.

# Protecting your rights

## Human Rights



Basic rights across Europe need to be protected, especially those of minority and disadvantaged groups.

The European Convention on Human Rights is part of the Scotland Act 1998, meaning human rights are protected by the Scottish Government. The SNP have always been against the UK government's attempts to scrap the Human Rights Act.

The SNP Government will keep the Charter of Fundamental Rights. This includes the protection of rights, like the right to petition, freedom of expression, and protection of the rights of the elderly.

## Consumer Rights



As a citizen of the EU, you have strong legal protection against faulty goods and unfair business practices.

If you buy any item in the EU, either online or from a shop, and it is different from how it is advertised or it does not work properly, you have the right to a free repair or replacement.

European Consumer Centres give free advice and support when you buy goods or services from a trader in another EU country. The EU's system allows member states to tell each other quickly if a product is a risk to health and safety.

We get lots of these EU protections but we have not been told if the UK government will give the same protections after Brexit.

SNP representatives will work to protect and extend these rights.

# Freedom of Movement



Freedom of movement, the ability to live, work, travel and study freely across European Member States, has been very good for Scotland.

Whether you want to retire to Spain or work in Germany, you have been able to do this without any barriers thanks to our membership of the EU.

Scotland is a welcoming and forward-looking country, and we value the part played by everyone who chooses to make Scotland their home.

With people living longer, we need more working-age people to help grow our population, build our economy and keep our public services running. Freedom of movement has helped us to do just that.

EU citizens make our communities better and we welcome what they bring to every part of Scotland.

Our friends, neighbours and colleagues from elsewhere in the EU also give a huge boost to Scotland's economy - on average every EU citizen working in Scotland adds £34,400.

Ending freedom of movement would be a disaster for Scotland, and especially for our remote, rural and island communities.

Even if EU migration falls by half, it would cost Scotland almost £6.8 billion a year by 2040. That is an unacceptable price for Scotland to pay.

Keeping our EU membership and freedom of movement is the best possible way to protect Scotland's future needs, giving employers access to one of the world's biggest labour markets.



# The Single Market



The European single market is central to Scotland's economy and place in the world. The single market makes sure that people, goods and services can move freely anywhere within the EU, and is worth around £14.9 billion to the Scottish economy.

The size of the single market means that the EU can get free trade deals, so we can also sell our goods and services to countries like Japan, Vietnam and South Korea.

The UK had made agreements to continue only 9 trade deals ahead of the latest Brexit extension, leaving our economy at real risk.

Leaving the EU and the Single Market would cut the amount of money Scotland makes by around £9 billion by 2030 and risk around 300,000 jobs.

For the SNP, whatever happens with Brexit, Scotland has to stay in the single market.

EU membership brings good trade deals for Scotland, and electing SNP MEPs will make sure that Scotland's voice is heard when these deals are being made.

As an independent country in the EU, we could help make trade rules to benefit Scottish trade directly.

## Funding for Scottish projects



Scotland gets a lot of funding from the EU. From 2014 to 2020, Scotland will get around £410 million from the European Regional Development Fund, to help with building projects. Another £400 million from the European Social Fund is helping charities and voluntary organisations to tackle poverty and help people find jobs.

Funding from the Regional Development programme has helped to support projects across the country, including the Orkney Research Campus, the Rothesay Pavilion and low carbon travel in the Highlands.

These funds have helped us make people's lives better and helped businesses to grow. This is good for Scotland and our place in the world.

Funding from Creative Europe and Horizon 2020 has been good for communities all over the country, from Leith to Lybster.

We need to keep our EU membership so we can have access to this funding, so Scotland can continue to be known across the world for its excellent culture and talent.

The SNP Government has also used European funding during the recession to give more value to the Scottish taxpayer.

The UK government has not told us how it plans to replace these schemes. We do not know much say Scotland will have about it or how much money Scotland will get. There is a real risk that the Tory government will keep funds in London and ignore the voice of Scotland's communities. The SNP will fight to make sure that the Scottish Parliament still has a say in deciding how these funds should be spent.

As an independent country, Scotland would have a voice at the European Council and the ability to decide how money should be spent in the future.

## Looking after your health



Scotland already leads the way in Health and Social Care. Many people from the EU currently work in health and social care jobs in Scotland, and we are very happy to have them.

One of the main reasons the NHS was set up was to give free healthcare. Currently, patients can access new medicines quickly through the European Medicines Agency.

EU membership also gives us the European Health Insurance Card. This means that Scots who fall ill while they are on another EU country can get treatment.

All these important, life-saving agreements are at risk if we leave the EU, and the SNP will fight to protect them.

## Keeping you safer



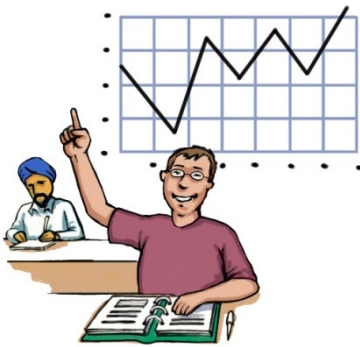
EU countries work to keep citizens safe by working together on security and law enforcement.

Important EU tools and systems like the European Arrest Warrant help Police Scotland, the Crown Office and the Procurator Fiscal Service to fight crime across borders and keep people safe.

Brexit would mean losing these important systems. That would make it much harder for Police Scotland to move quickly and arrest suspected criminals.

Keeping our country safe is an international challenge. We need to work together with other European countries to deal with terrorism, human trafficking and cyber-security.

## Paying for cutting-edge research



Scotland's universities are among the best in the world and because of this they get a lot of funding from the EU. But we get more out of these funding programmes than money. We also get the benefits of working on research with other countries. And over a quarter of full time research staff working in Scottish institutions are from EU countries.

Horizon Europe, the new funding programme, and the EU's student exchange programme, Erasmus+, will be bigger than ever between 2021 and 2027.

We will fight to make sure that we keep getting the full benefits of Erasmus+ in Scotland. This will give many more students in Scotland the chance to study in Europe.

Horizon Europe and Erasmus+ can only work if people can move freely across Europe. We don't know if the UK Government has any plans to make this happen. The SNP wants to keep making the best of these opportunities and will continue to fight for the right to get these funds from the EU.

# Support for the rural economy

## Fisheries and Maritime



The SNP has always stood up for Scotland's coastal communities. We know how important our fishing and aquaculture industries are. We will keep working on the best way to manage fisheries in the future so there is a healthy and successful industry both on and offshore.

Most of Scotland's fish and seafood exports go to Europe, with salmon being the UK's most valuable food export. With around 4,500 people from the EU working in fish processing jobs, we need to make sure that they are allowed to stay in their Scottish communities.

Scotland will get around £150 million from the European and Maritime Fisheries Fund between 2014 and 2020 to support the fishing and aquaculture industries. But because the UK didn't put Scotland's interests first, we get less funding than we should. Scotland gets only 2% of the support available through the Fisheries Fund, even though we have 9% of Europe's waters. The SNP will keep asking for fair funding for Scotland's fishing communities

The Tories let down our fishing industry in the 1970s, saying that the livelihoods of our coastal communities were 'expendable'.

Under the Common Fisheries Policy, the UK government has put fishing communities in other parts of the UK ahead of those in Scotland. And this has continued with Theresa May's EU Withdrawal Agreement. If this goes ahead it would be a disaster for our seafood industry. We will fight any attempts to sell out Scotland's fishing communities.

Scotland holds the fourth largest fish catching area in EU waters, and we will keep arguing for fishing to be fully controlled by the Scottish Parliament if we leave the EU. The Tories have put our fishing communities in a disastrous situation. An independent Scottish Parliament could have avoided this by having our own say.

If we remain within the EU the SNP will keep pushing for changes to the Common Fisheries Policy so it suits different fishing fleets and different parts of the country.

## Agriculture (farming)



Farming is the jewel in the crown of Scotland's rural economy, supplying a wide range of healthy food and drink. It also gives Scotland valuable exports and income, creates jobs and growth and is good for our outstanding natural landscapes and environment.

Scotland currently gets around £580 million each year through the EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). This money is a lifeline for many farmers and is needed for our rural economy, but the UK Government has made no promise that this funding will continue after 2020.

However, Scotland's farmers should get more money than they do. Because Scotland's farmers get paid much less for their farmland than the EU average, the UK government was paid extra by the European Commission. Instead of passing all this money to Scotland, Westminster short-changed Scotland's farmers by £160 million.

Up to 10,000 EU citizens work in the food and drink industries, particularly in food processing and manufacturing. There are another 10,000 seasonal workers from the EU in the soft fruit and vegetable sectors. This could not happen without freedom of movement.

Scotland makes food that is respected and well known around the world, including whisky, Stornoway Black Pudding, Arbroath Smokies, Dunlop Cheese and Scotch Lamb.

Staying in the EU allows us to protect and promote them through Protected Geographical Indications. The Tory government still can't tell us what would replace this if we leave. We will fight for our protected brands to remain Scottish.

Staying in the EU means we can say no to growing GM (Genetically Modified) crops. The EU has also stopped US attempts to lower labelling standards for GM produced food. Staying in the EU means Scottish food and drink would be protected from unwanted trade deals.



# Protecting Our Planet



Scotland is a world-leader in tackling climate change. Proposed new Scottish laws mean we will have to have zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045 at the latest, and be carbon neutral by 2040. The SNP has promised to tackle the climate emergency we are facing.

The EU has a triple target for 2020: 20 per cent lower carbon emissions compared to 1990, 20 per cent of energy to come from renewables (like solar and wind power), and 20 per cent more energy efficiency. We think this is a good start but we think it needs to go further. We will press the EU to see that there is a climate emergency and do more to tackle it.

A strong SNP voice in Europe means Scotland can lead the way in protecting the environment for future generations.

Developing our own energy market will mean a better deal for customers. More renewable energy means lower energy prices.

We also have some of the best renewable resources in the world. Renewable energy in Scotland hit record levels in 2018, making up about 75 per cent of the electricity we used. Even so, the UK government has slashed support for many renewable projects in recent years.

Ground breaking renewable energy projects in Scotland, such as the European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre and tidal power project Meygen, have been made possible with the help of EU funding.

Scotland gets funding of £525 million from the EU to hit environmental targets. £60 million alone is used for our environmental public organisations including SEPA (Scottish Environmental Protection Agency), the Royal Botanic Gardens in Edinburgh and Zero Waste Scotland.

We are determined to put a stop to Brexit. But if we are dragged out of the EU against our will, the SNP Scottish Government will stick to or go further than current EU environment standards. This will make sure we get all the benefits a healthy natural environment brings to our economy and society, and protect our environment for generations to come.

## Animal Welfare



About 80 per cent of UK animal welfare laws come from the EU, from banning cosmetic testing on animals to setting standards on farming conditions for livestock. Protecting these rights is important to the SNP.

The SNP will uphold the Five Freedoms of farm animals and the Lisbon Treaty's decision that animals are sentient beings.

SNP MEPs supported CCTV in abattoirs, setting up local slaughterhouses to make transport times shorter for animals, and strong action against puppy smuggling.

Brexit must not be allowed to take away the animal welfare rules that currently protect domestic and wild animals from exploitation, suffering, or cruel treatment.



## A new digital world



Digital technology is dramatically changing our world, bringing both opportunities and new risks. If there was a complete EU digital single market, the EU could make €415 billion a year.

The EU's Digital Single Market plan aims to open up digital opportunities for people and business and make Europe a world leader in the digital economy. Working with our neighbours so that health information can be shared and used safely across borders, allowing researchers to fight disease, is good for every one of us.

Brexit threatens Scottish businesses' ability to trade online with the EU. This could mean losing 500 million EU customers, who brought us €530 billion in sales in 2017.

Copyright is an important part of this discussion. Scotland's creative sector, and all of us as digital citizens, need a strong voice to promote our privacy online and get fair pay for our creative and digital industries.

Doing away with roaming charges is a huge benefit to consumers, and there is no guarantee that this will continue after Brexit.

SNP MEPs have been working to raise awareness about cybersecurity and for the same rules to be used across Europe.

## Creating a fairer economy



Scotland has the chance to become a global leader in creating an economy that is good for everyone and offers good jobs, sustainability, social inclusiveness, and stability.

Creating a fairer society is one of the most important beliefs of the SNP and is needed for the long-term well-being of the Scottish economy.

The SNP will keep supporting fairer tax and fight the continuing tax breaks given to large multinational corporations and rich people.

We will keep cracking down on tax havens, tax evasion, tax avoidance and money laundering in the global fight against tax injustice.

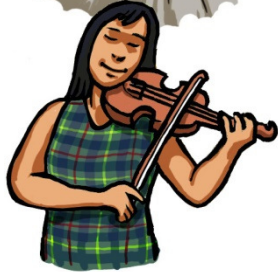
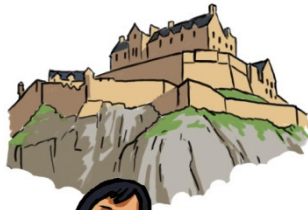
## Helping the most vulnerable



The issue of migration clearly shows that Europe cannot and must not cut itself off from the wider world. The people of Scotland and the Scottish Government have always thought we should be kind and caring towards migrants and refugees.

SNP MEPs will keep calling on the EU to welcome and protect refugees arriving in Europe and use the EU's large resources to help other countries.

## Promoting Scotland as a tourist hotspot



Whether it is our scenery, our history or our fantastic food and drink, many things draw people to our wonderful country. Tourism brings around £6 billion a year to the Scottish economy.

Scotland has a world-leading reputation for being a creative, forward-thinking nation rich in heritage. Our international standing has been made better because of our membership of the European Union.

Our future as an exciting, confident country depends on sharing ideas, knowledge and skills between artists and organisations across the EU.

Six of the top ten countries for tourism into Scotland are European nations. Leaving the EU risks damage to Scotland's international image as a country that is open for tourism. If the UK government made it harder for people to travel here from the EU, people in Europe might not want to come here for their holidays.

Any risk to freedom of movement will be bad for our tourism sector because EU nationals make up a large part of the workforce. Over 13 per cent of people working in the Scottish tourism industry are from EU countries.

## Keeping transport accessible



Leaving the EU will make it harder to travel between mainland Europe and Scotland.

Scotland's trade with mainland Europe depends on moving quickly through ports and airports with as little fuss as possible. If we leave the EU, we risk long border checks that will slow trade. This would be a big problem when things need to move quickly, like imported medicines and exported Scottish seafood.

Direct flights between Scotland and mainland Europe help with speedy trade, and are particularly important for our food and drink industry. For road haulage, again we do not know what will happen if we leave, a situation which could mean UK hauliers cannot operate in mainland Europe.

The transport industry employs many people from EU countries like HGV drivers and bus drivers. We'll keep pushing to allow them access to these jobs. We will also keep working to make sure that EU crews on Northern Isles ferries, who stay on the ferries while working, can return to their home countries easily when not on duty.