

A united Europe: the Liberal vision

Consistently the Liberal Party has been in favour of the British membership of the European Economic Community (the 'Common Market'). Unlike both the Labour and Conservative parties it has never swerved from that belief.

As long ago as 1948 the ideal of Britain moving ever-closer to her neighbours was confirmed by the Liberal Assembly calling for "the establishment in Western Europe of a political and economic association

conceived on broad imaginative lines . . . a political union strong enough to save democracy and the values of Western Civilisation". Today the need for Britain to be European is greater than ever – both for what we can gain and for what we can contribute. This leaflet gives you a summary of some of the steps needed to make Europe the type of society Liberals want in the future – where you, future generations of your family and your whole way of life will benefit.



Liberal thinking on Europe

Jeremy Thorpe, the Liberal leader, has outlined Britain's role in Europe:—

We are both geographically and economically part of Europe and it is not our role to adopt a passive position on the sidelines. Britain must take the lead in the creation of an international community which can promote peace, prosperity and a new sense of purpose for the peoples both of the Continent and of these islands.

The Liberal Party has never been content with general approval of British membership of the Community. Over the years we have formulated policies and plans to make the EEC work more effectively for everyone's good; also ways to ensure all of us can participate in the decisions that affect our vital interests.

Our voice in Europe

The European Community must never be allowed to develop into some vast, remote organisation out of touch with the realities of ordinary life in the many regions of its member countries. Liberals want Britain's representatives to be directly elected so that they are accountable to their electors. We must all of us elect *our* man in Strasbourg—to put *our* case and protect *our* interests.

Your region and its needs

To counterbalance the wider influence of a European Government, directly elected Parliaments for Scotland, Wales and the regions of England are required. Only the Liberals have long campaigned for these reforms. As part of this policy, Liberals want each part of the United Kingdom represented in the European Parliament. In this way regional interests will not be ignored and Community assistance to regions will be both effective and fair.

Our food

As one consequence of membership we are paying less for our bread, butter, meat and sugar than we would have outside the community.

In spite of benefits such as these reduced prices compared to world markets, Liberals believe many aspects of the Common Agricultural Policy need re-thinking. Production should be more closely related to demand in order to avoid 'butter mountains' or any other food stockpiles. Even where stocks build up there should be no restriction on these being sold off within the Community.

Your influence at work

In most other countries in the Community the workers have a far greater 'say' in how their business is run—and also a far greater share in the profits. The Liberals have been the only party who have long advocated industrial democracy along these lines and Britain's partnership in Europe will mean much greater partnership at work.

European industrial success has meant a dramatic improvement in ordinary people's lives and working conditions. Already it has advanced living standards in the original member countries well beyond Britain's. Only through continual membership can Britain share in this prosperity in the next few years.

Our hopes for peace

The European Community is, of course, a major force for peace in Europe. Through it, former enemies like Germany, Italy and France have combined to promote their common welfare. More than that, the Community has a vital part to play in world peace. Alone, Britain can no longer influence world events (or even defend herself adequately). In the European Community we can.

Our country's interests

Finally, Britain's interests are best served through active involvement in the Community.

With today's international legislation, decisions made in other countries affect you as much as those made in this country. To determine your future you must play your part in making these decisions. The Community's strength will ensure Western Europe's views are listened to in world discussions. Only Liberal policies for elections, parliamentary representation, agriculture, and industrial democracy will truly ensure you can determine your own destiny.

Your next move

To know more about our Liberal policies for Europe, or if you want to help us convince others they must

SAY YES TO A LIBERAL EUROPE

Simply contact the Liberal Europe Campaign,
Europe House, 1a Whitehall Place, London SW1A 2HE
or telephone 01-839 6622 or 01-930 1526

and — **DO IT TODAY!**
