



LCID

Labour Campaign
for International
Development

Europe and International Development on the Doorstep:

A support pack for prospective MEPs

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Labour Campaign for International Development

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This pack is designed to help prospective MEPs talk about international development on the doorstep and as part of your wider campaigning around the European elections.

We know that talking about international development won't help win votes from every person in every constituency. But in many constituencies, development is something that is important to key sections of the electorate, be they students, diaspora groups, faith groups, or Liberal-Labour switchers. We hope this pack will help you reach out to these groups, and hammer home the message that Labour will deliver best on development in Europe.

We know too that campaigners often face questions about how foreign aid is spent, and why Labour supports foreign aid in the first place. This pack should also help you answer them.

This document includes:

- Top facts on the impact of European development aid
- The case for Labour in Europe on development
- Answers to tricky doorstep questions

Between now and the elections, there are two dates where international development issues might be on voters' minds:

- Thursday 1st May: International Workers' Day
- Sunday 3rd May: World Press Freedom Day

We welcome all questions and feedback on this document and the work of the Labour Campaign for International Development. Please contact LCID's PPC and CLP Outreach Officer, Laura Kyrke-Smith, on laura@laid.org.uk

About LCID

LCID is one of the Party's newest affiliated socialist societies. We seek to keep development high on our Party's agenda, hold the Conservatives to account and show anti-poverty campaigners that Labour is their natural home.

You can follow us on twitter [@LabourCID](https://twitter.com/LabourCID) or on our blog at LCID.org.uk

We'd also welcome your support as a member of LCID – you can join for just £10 at LCID.org.uk/join

Top facts on the impact of European aid

EU aid makes a real difference to people's lives. As members of the EU, the people of Britain are supporting the world's poorest people to live a life of dignity:

- Approximately 16% of the UK's total aid budget, or around £1.4 billion a year, is spent through the EU, allowing us to multiply the impact of this aid by working with other countries.
- 70% of the European Commission's humanitarian aid money is spent in the world's most fragile states, ensuring that it reaches the world's most vulnerable people.
- In Burkina Faso, where 15p in every pound of aid money comes from the EU, over 99 per cent of citizens are now vaccinated against measles. Three quarters of girls attend primary school. Over half a million people have been provided with safe water.
- Or look at Bangladesh – where European aid, 12% of total aid received, has enabled the government to train and employ 35,000 new teachers, buy 60 million new school textbooks, and build new toilets and wells for these schoolchildren.

In the long run, European aid provides a return on investment for Europe. Aid allows us to promote social justice and equality, while also being in our own interest:

- Whether we like it or not, we live in a world where what happens in other countries affects us too – whether it is weather patterns or food production. So supporting and shaping what happens elsewhere is in our national interest here.
- EU aid goes towards enhancing trade and building infrastructure in regions such as sub-Saharan Africa. This in turn leads to a decline in the costs of exporting and importing goods and services, and boosts trade between EU and recipient countries.
- As a result, export and import prices in all EU Member States will fall, providing a clear return on investment for EU taxpayers.

The EU sets global standards for giving foreign aid. Through its sheer size the EU carries great influence and is one of the most transparent donors in the world:

- The European Commission itself looks after about one fifth of the aid of its member states, making it the world's second largest donor – second only to the US.
- EU aid is closely monitored to ensure waste is minimised. EU aid is classed as some of the most transparent aid in the world. In 2012 an independent study ranked the EU 5th out of 72 organisations worldwide on aid transparency.
- Of all the money spent by the EU, it is international aid money that has the greatest euro for euro impact on people's lives.

The people of Europe want their money to be spent on helping the world's poorest:

- A poll in 2012 found that 85% of EU citizens believed that the EU should continue helping developing countries despite the economic difficulties at home.

Why Labour in Europe?

There is only one Party that champions and improves people's everyday lives through our values of fairness and equality – the Labour Party.

Labour in Europe would maintain the many consumer rights and standards we enjoy; fight to manage the cost of living in Britain by ensuring we get a fair deal; protect the NHS from exploitation by trade agreements; and ensure that Europe continues co-operate on tackling crime and safety effectively.

Labour in Europe would fight for Europe to remain strong. Before the European Union existed every generation living in Europe experienced war. Since the origins of the European Union we have entered a period of peace between member states, which was previously unheard of and should not be taken for granted. Being a part of the European Union has delivered us democracy, peace, respect for human rights, including women's and children's rights. Even if the EU did nothing else, surely that alone would be good enough!

A Labour Europe would help end global poverty because it is in our DNA and values

A vote for Labour in the EU elections means our values of fairness and equality would not only be championed in Britain and Europe but beyond that – through Europe's overseas development programmes.

Giving support to poor countries is in our DNA, as a party that believes in social justice and equality. Under the last Labour government, the British people lifted three million people out of poverty in developing countries. We are proud that we were able to make that difference to people's lives. Children are now in school because of us. Mothers are surviving childbirth because of us. This is what we do as a party and as a country: we change lives for the better.

The EU already does a lot for poor countries around the world. But an EU where Labour had a strong voice would do even more – it would influence Europe to be an effective agent of peace abroad, it would support the people struggling for democracy, social justice, non-discrimination and freedom against any form of occupation everywhere in the world.

A Labour Europe would help our values of fairness and equality, empowering people, become a reality everywhere.

A Labour Europe would help end global poverty because it helps us too

Lifting poor people out of poverty boosts Europe's economy, Europe's security and Europe's standing as a global power – and in turn, Britain's too.

Whether we like it or not, we live in a world where what happens in other countries affects us too. So supporting and shaping what happens elsewhere is in our national interest here.

The flooding in Britain is the result of climate change caused by people, governments and businesses everywhere. Terrorism threats hit Britain from all over the world. The food in the supermarkets here will be cheaper if the farmers who grow the grain or sugar abroad have had a good year.

So it makes sense for Britain to invest in ending climate change globally, to strengthen countries where terrorists hide to develop their security measures, or to support farmers who produce the food on our supermarket shelves.

As other countries come out of poverty, they also become countries that we can trade with, invest in, export our goods and services to. Look at India or Brazil today. By helping poor people in these places, we in turn help the British economy grow and create jobs for British people.

And what's more, at a time when China and other countries are on the rise, it is Britain and Europe's generosity to the world's poor that helps us to continue to stand out as a global power.

In this globally connected world, with conflicts and growing inequalities, Europe must be a strong and global player. We must build strong alliances to respond to common challenges.

And a Labour Europe would help end global poverty because we can

Of course the people of Britain come first – that's why overseas aid is just 0.7% of our Gross National Income. But we can afford to give aid too: the world spends less on development aid than we do on ice cream or fizzy drinks. With all the benefits that it brings us, whether it is peace and security or economic growth, this seems like good value for money.

How to answer those tricky doorstep questions

1. Why should we give our aid money to Europe? Why don't we just spend it how we want to?

By pooling our resources with other EU member states, we ensure that we make the most of the range of experience and expertise in international development from across Europe. Ultimately this is about effectiveness – ensuring ultimately that our aid money is spent as well as possible. One large programme, combining all the best experience and expertise from across Europe, is much more likely to be effective than 28 small aid programmes.

We can extend our reach further, ensuring that our aid reaches the poorest people in more countries, including countries where we as Britain don't have a strong relationship individually.

Pooling our resources as EU member states also allows us to concentrate on global priorities, such as climate change, security and trade – where the concentration of the resources of several countries will have more impact than Britain can have alone.

Pooling our resources and providing aid as a single EU is also better for developing countries, who would otherwise spend a lot of their limited resources interacting with 28 different European countries, slowing their own change and growth.

2. Why should we give money to the EU, when it is so bureaucratic and ineffective? Doesn't it mean that even more money just gets wasted?

The recent aid review led by the UK Department for International Development awarded the European Development Fund its highest possible rating: a double 'strong' for both 'contribution to UK development objectives' and 'organisation strengths'. This means that it not only delivers UK policy objectives but leverages other EU countries, through their contributions, to spend their aid in-line with UK priorities.

(if pushed...)

Giving aid to the EU does include an administrative cost of around 5% of the total aid money spent. However we save on the administrative cost of delivering this aid through our own government, and we are reassured that the EU's administrative costs are lower than the average costs of the main international aid donors.

3. Doesn't some of the EU's aid money go to countries in or near Europe? Why should the EU give money to rich countries like Turkey?

The EU has made a major commitment to focus aid on the countries that need it most. Bilateral aid to many middle-income countries has actually been reduced, despite the fact that some of the world's poorest people still live in these countries and the gap between richest and poorest is rising. In the last few years, aid to 12 middle-income countries, including India and China, has been cut.

The only exception to this is countries in the EU's neighbourhood, who qualify for aid under the EU's pre-accession agreements. The vast majority of aid money that the UK gives to Europe is looked after by the European Development Fund, which in turn

gives 93% of its funding to the poorest countries in the world, most of them in sub-Saharan Africa.

4. What difference can a MEP like you actually make to how European development money is spent? Isn't it all out of your control really?

The main priority of MEPs will be to support effective and efficient use of aid money. MEPs monitor the European Commission's performance on aid spending. They help set future international development spending priorities. They pressure the EU to respond quickly to humanitarian crises such as floods, earthquakes and other natural disasters.

Voting for Labour in Europe is a guarantee that Britain's representatives in Europe will fight to ensure that European aid money is spent to the highest possible standards of transparency and effectiveness – and of course in line with Britain's priorities.

5. But wouldn't any MEP from any party do that? Why should I vote for Labour in Europe?

An EU where Labour had a strong voice would do more – it would influence Europe to be an effective agent of peace abroad, it would support the people struggling for democracy, social justice, non-discrimination and freedom against any form of occupation everywhere in the world. A Labour Europe wouldn't just be about charity like a Tory Europe – it would help our values of fairness and equality, worker rights, and empowering people, become a reality everywhere.