



What has the EU ever done for us?

The EU has delivered huge benefits for the UK as a country and for all of us as individuals. So when someone asks you what the EU has done for us, here are some practical things that have changed all our lives. Every single day something you do will have been affected and improved by the EU. The EU makes our lives better, and most of these improvements were opposed by the Tories! We'd lose all these benefits if we left the EU as some Tory politicians want us to do.

The EU means more jobs

- **3.5 MILLION JOBS DEPEND ON TRADE WITH THE EU**
- **Over half of all our trade is with the EU**
- **700,000 companies trade with EU countries**

If we weren't members of the EU, we would lose our easy access to that market of over 500 million people. British products would cost more in Europe – we'd lose sales and jobs. And we'd have to pay more for European goods too.

And after work, you can retire to another EU country and still get your pension increases, thanks to the EU.

The EU makes travel easier and safer

Thanks to the EU, you don't have to queue for hours to have your passport checked when you go on holiday

You can get free healthcare if you are taken ill in an EU country

The EU forced through action to cut costs of mobile calls and texts sent when on holiday

EU rules mean cleaner beaches all over Europe, including Britain

The EU has stopped airlines using misleading adverts and websites

The EU means we can fight climate change together

Climate change affects every country – carbon emissions don't stop at national boundaries, rain storms or droughts don't stick to just one country and rising sea levels will affect whole continents. We can only fight climate change if we all work together.

- All EU countries have agreed to work towards a Europe-wide target of 20% cuts in CO₂ emissions and 20% use of renewable energy by 2020
- New EU rules mean all vehicles engines must be greener and cleaner
- The EU Emissions Trading Scheme reduces greenhouse gases
- The EU Clean Skies programme will make airliners cleaner
- The EU is forcing countries and companies to recycle more waste
- A ban on wasteful high-energy light bulbs
- Illegal logging that damages rainforests is being fought by banning the products made from illegal wood
- And by working together, the EU countries have got a better deal for the planet in international climate change conferences like Kyoto

The EU makes shopping cheaper and safer

EU wide action on price fixing means cheaper products

Companies operating scams are now fought across Europe, closing them down

Over 1,600 dangerous products removed from sale in 2007 alone

The EU has been able to introduce Europe-wide rules for internet selling, protecting us from rogue traders

The EU makes life safer at home

EU-wide food and drinking water standards mean safer food and tap water for us all

We can see what is in our food at a glance, thanks to European food labelling standards

We have the healthiest rivers for centuries, after the EU stopped farmers dumping fertiliser and slurry in rivers

New EU rules on toy safety protect our children from harm

The EU protects you at work

Labour and the EU have brought in rules to protect us all at work, from danger and exploitation. These rules stop us from being used by bad employers and make us safer at work

- Part time workers have the same rights as full-time workers for the first time. That means proper paid holidays, a pension, equal pay and conditions
- Temporary workers have a better deal on pay and paid holidays
- Working Time Directive stops workers being forced to work excessive hours
- Longer maternity leave and paid paternity leave
- Tougher rules to protect workers from dangerous machinery or chemicals
- Common rules across Europe stop multinationals moving jobs to other countries to cut corners

About the Labour Movement for Europe

LME is a group of activists from all parts of the country and all parts of the Labour movement. We put the case for Europe, and we would like you to join us. Help us to get out the message to Labour party members and supporters. Your support will help us in our vital work – work like producing the European Election toolkit that this leaflet is part of.

To join LME, please ask for an application form:

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