

IT'S YOUR EUROPE YOUR FUTURE

ecology party
manifesto

European Election 1979



What's wrong with the EEC

1. The prime economic objective of the EEC is growth. This objective is now unrealistic and damaging, since it raises false hopes and delays the adoption of appropriate measures for the inevitable no-growth economy of the future.
2. The EEC is based on nation states, in essentially the same sort of relationship with each other as they were a century ago. This anachronism will hold back the development of the real co-operation needed to meet the serious economic and social problems that lie ahead.
3. Investment and industry is concentrated in a small number of large centres. This draws resources and talent away from the outlying areas, and makes the EEC as a whole particularly vulnerable to the effects of economic recession, in which the towns will be first to suffer.
4. The power of the EEC is based on a centralised and growing bureaucracy; this leads to dissent and disillusion about the EEC and will speed the growth of uncompromisingly separatist movements - unless it is balanced by the development of effective self-determination in the regions.
5. While some standardisation of products is desirable, this is being taken much too far. For instance, the standardisation of plant and animal varieties is absurd and renders the Community very vulnerable to the effects of plant disease or climatic change.
6. Industrial and agricultural specialisation is uncompromisingly encouraged, in place of the greater regional self-sufficiency and diversity which will be so vital in the future.
7. The EEC is becoming a major power block with global interests to defend. In its present form, it represents a pattern of political and economic exclusivity which other blocks (South America, Africa, Asean) will tend to follow. This will accelerate the trend of global instability.
8. The EEC is moving towards increased dependence on nuclear power.
9. The economy of the EEC is on a trend of major recession and unemployment, and there is no evidence that adequate measures to make provision for this are planned.
10. The emphasis on material achievement is an expression of an economic system which is now in decline, and more and more people are rejecting it. The EEC will need to adopt sounder and more humane values if it is to attract the loyalty of its people.

...and what's right with it

1. The countries of Europe are making a genuine and long overdue attempt to co-operate with each other.
2. The EEC has large stocks of minerals and coal, and could be self-sufficient in food.
3. In its Regional Policy the EEC offers the beginnings of an appropriate framework for a federation of regions.
4. Greater awareness of the need to control environmental pollution is shown by the EEC as a whole than by its member states acting on their own account.
5. The EEC as a whole provides the basis for the evolution of the self-reliant no-growth society of the future.

Europe ecology

At present the EEC seems remote and irrelevant to many of the people who live in it. That is scarcely surprising. Just look at the name ...

European Economic Community. It's not yet a community. Its economics are in disarray. It is not even wholly representative of the countries of Europe.

It is attempting to set up a sound democratic base just at the time when our whole industrial way of life is at risk; when unemployment is no longer responding to the solutions that have been successful in the past; when economic growth, the goal on which the EEC is based, is being seriously called into question; when energy shortages are really beginning to bite.

There is more wrong with the EEC at present than there is right with it. But the EEC does offer one essential benefit that must be recognised.

It offers the basis for the sustainable society on which we will all depend in the future. But not in its present form. The people of Europe will have to join together to change it.

From an industrial state in decline - into a real community.

A stable economy

We are entering a different age. The days of cheap energy, cheap raw materials and cheap labour are over - and that means an end to economic growth as we have known it. We must therefore reverse the EEC's obsolete commitment to such growth and transform our wasteful, throwaway society, preparing for the future by using the resources of the EEC to build a stable, self-reliant economy, creating jobs and developing skills which will make sense when the energy crisis really begins to bite and raw materials become scarce.

1. EMPLOYMENT

- * create thousands of jobs by transforming our approach to agriculture and developing an appropriate energy policy; encourage employment in all maintenance and repair businesses, expanding the recycling and anti-pollution industries.
- * start planning now to ensure that the revolutionary technology of the silicon chip enhances rather than threatens the quality of life.
- * promote small businesses and co-operatives, ensuring real job satisfaction and allowing workers to take responsibility for themselves and their community; produce high quality goods that are made to last, with an emphasis on manual and craft skills.
- * encourage member countries to introduce the reduced working week and job-sharing schemes.

2. ENERGY

- * work out a Common Energy Policy for Europe to ensure a more efficient use of non-renewable sources and achieve a significant decline in our overall energy use with massive conservation and insulation programmes throughout Europe.
- * scrap the Euratom Treaty and link with member countries to abandon reliance upon nuclear energy; the risks and the costs are too high, and the problems of waste disposal are still unresolved.
- * dramatically step up research into energy from wind, wave and sun, and put more emphasis on energy from biomass, heat recovery systems and heat pumps, using technology to encourage rather than prohibit local autonomy.

3. TRANSPORT

- * plan our environment so as to minimise dependence on all forms of transport, breaking industry down into smaller units and encouraging people to live closer to their work.
- * develop those forms of transport which use fuel most efficiently - railways, buses and canals. Move long-distance and bulk freight by rail and water: build no more major roads; set petrol taxes to discriminate in favour of low-consumption vehicles.

An active community

The Europe of the future must become a federation of self-reliant regions, rather than an uneasy gathering of competitive nation-states. To achieve this, much of the EEC's appallingly wasteful and bureaucratic structure must be changed. We must foster a new, pluralistic style of politics in keeping with the coming post-industrial age, based on diversity, self-determination and self-reliance. We must acknowledge the dangers of unchecked materialism, and unashamedly create a more spiritually-minded society which puts people before profit and power-seeking elites.

1. THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

- * encourage the Parliament to take an active role promoting international understanding and the cause of peace.
- * strengthen its powers so as to restrain the executive role of the Council and the bureaucracy of the Commission.
- * ensure that at the next European Election in 1984 all members are elected by Proportional Representation.

2. DECENTRALISATION AND DEMOCRACY

- * use the Regional Policy to speed the transition to a decentralised yet genuinely co-operative community.
- * encourage the establishment of devolved assemblies throughout the regions of Europe.
- * revitalise depopulated country areas and give local communities in both town and country a far greater say over their own affairs. Democracy depends on active participation.

3. A HEALTHY COMMUNITY

- * create an environment which minimizes disease, removing the causes rather than alleviating the symptoms
- * encourage smaller, community-based hospitals
- * move away from the highly technical and expensive business of curative medicine to a more cost-effective policy of preventive medicine.
- * introduce more stringent controls over the production and use of drugs.

Europe and the World

Europe's role in world politics is vital; at its worst, that role may be limited to ever more desperate and destructive efforts to shore up a crumbling economic and political system. Alternatively, Europe could use its enormous resources and skills to pioneer the post-industrial society and set the pattern for other countries to follow.

1. THE THIRD WORLD

- * make a priority of suitable aid to Third World countries for there can be no long-term stability unless basic human needs are satisfied throughout the world.
- * extend the Lome convention (which only concerns African, Caribbean and Pacific countries) to cover all Third World countries
- * aid should be given to reduce the dependence of Third World countries on overseas trade, and to help re-establish their ecological 'capital' through reafforestation schemes and suitable agricultural assistance.
- * provide appropriate technological help for specific small-scale projects, with the emphasis on decentralised labour-intensive methods.
- * give every assistance to voluntary schemes to control population growth.

2. A PEACEFUL COMMUNITY

- * revitalise the campaign for complete nuclear disarmament, with Europe independently setting an example to the so-called 'super-powers'; lasting security can never be bought with the weapons of mass destruction.
- * prohibit the export of all arms and nuclear technology.

Europe and the environment

Unlimited urban and industrial expansion has put our whole environment at risk - yet a stable economy depends upon a stable environment. We must remove persistent inequalities in the distribution of wealth which serve as a barrier to the adoption of environmentally responsible policies, and must acknowledge the limits of our world while treasuring its natural wealth.

1. AGRICULTURE

- * totally transform the Common Agricultural Policy so as to remove wasteful surpluses and distribution costs, and ensuring that all regions of Europe become as self-sufficient as possible in food and agricultural produce.
- * prevent further loss of land for industrial expansion, and reduce European farmers' dependence on chemicals, fertilisers and non-renewable sources of energy.
- * encourage smaller farms and smallholdings, so that agriculture becomes more labour-intensive, and is not just treated as another industry.
- * achieve high yields without reducing soil fertility, through flexible, mixed farming, encouraging organic methods to improve the overall quality of our food.

2. POLLUTION

- * set up an Environmental Protection Agency, to treat the causes rather than the symptoms of pollution, with powers to enforce stringent control measures.
- * encourage industry to deal with pollution at source through the provision of grants backed by fiscal sanctions.
- * ban the use of lead in petrol throughout Europe.

THE ECOLOGY PARTY is Britain's fastest growing political party, and fought 53 seats in the General Election with considerable success. Its policies incline neither to the Right nor to the Left, and it is seeking a new direction for British politics.

National Chairman

Jonathan Tyler
121 Selly Park Road
Birmingham 29

021-472 1088

Deputy Chairman

Jonathon Porritt
57 Hamilton Terrace
London NW8

01-286 6695

National Secretary

Sally Willington
278 Battersea Park Road
London SW11

Deputy Secretary and enquiries

Andrea Hodgkinson
217 Unthank Road
Norwich

0603 501530

Treasurer

Peter Sizer
9 Sherborne Terrace
Clarendon Street
Leamington Spa
Warwickshire

0926 29875

Press Secretary

David Fleming
104 South Hill Park
London NW3

01-794 5644