

# UNITE FOR LABOUR

## EUROPEAN & LOCAL ELECTIONS THURSDAY 4 JUNE

Your union spells out why these elections are so important to you ...

**YOU**  
YOUR FUTURE  
EUROPE and  
LABOUR



*"No Labour MEPs, no progress. Simple as that,"* said Derek Simpson capturing the reason why all of us in Unite should support Labour on Thursday 4 June.

Derek is right. If you and all Unite members vote Labour, together we can get **North West Unite member Theresa Griffin elected as an MEP**. We can get progress in Europe to bring better rights and protections for you and your family and the prospect of job and skills creation. **It's worth voting Labour.**

Glenis Willmott, Labour Leader in Europe, also put it clearly. *"Our record proves we fight hard for fair chances and fair rules for everyone. But we have to fight a right-wing majority in Europe,"* she said. *"The Tories vote against progressive measures and are putting your social protections, workplace rights and environmental safeguards at serious risk by wanting to pull out of the Social Chapter."*

The European Parliament is no talking shop. It approves European legislation. That's why a strong Socialist Group with Theresa and more UK Labour MEPs in it is crucial to you and all trade unionists as we press for better employment rights, improved social legislation and the sort of environmental policies which tackle climate change and bring new 'green collar' jobs to our country.

#### THE POLITICAL DIVIDING LINES ARE REALLY CLEAR:

- **Labour** - tackling the recession by investing and supporting industries and workers. The Tories offer cuts and carping.
- **Labour** - leading in Europe with more holidays, better parental leave, protection against long working hours, rights to information and consultation, the right for women to return to work after childbirth, pension reform, a new deal for temporary and agency workers... the list goes on. The Tories opposed many of these.
- **Labour** - taking on discrimination and the threat of the far-right. The Tories voted against anti-discrimination measures.

Unite members did not allow the BNP to hijack their protests at the Lindsey oil refinery. But low numbers voting and targeting by the racist BNP may see them get the 8% they need under the PR system to get Euro MPs elected in the North West. We cannot let that happen. They have nothing to offer except hatred and division. **Supporting Labour helps to keep them out.**





EVERY VOTE WILL COUNT IN THE  
EUROPEAN ELECTIONS ON JUNE 4TH

## YOUR VOTE WILL COUNT

These elections are vital to us as trade unionists in the North West. They could bring a better future for rights at work, social legislation and action to tackle climate change. But they risk being hijacked by narrow-minded Tories and the divisive far right BNP. We cannot let that happen.

Yet only two per cent of people know these elections are happening. It's a wake-up call for us as Unite members. Without a strong Labour Group of MEPs, we won't get the action we need for fair access to jobs in engineering construction or for trade unions to tackle exploitation and discrimination.

If we don't vote Labour, we can wake up to a European Parliament of Tories topped up with fringe elements like UKIP and the racist BNP. By voting in Labour MEPs with real experience of trade union activity we can deliver a clear blow against fascism.

I'm proud of my twenty years of trade union activity. I'm proud to be a Labour candidate at number 3 on the list for the North West with a realistic chance of winning and delivering that blow to the racists.

If all Unite members turn out for Labour in the North West, we could gain a seat. That would be me. I'm committed, as are all Labour candidates, to the progressive Europe that benefits all of us and our families.

Low numbers voting may let the BNP in. That would damage Britain's reputation. It would mean money, power and influence for the racists. If people don't vote, the BNP will win a seat. We must not let that happen. We are working hard in the North West and welcome any support you can give. Voting Labour will count. It will make a difference as we get more committed trade unionists elected to the European Parliament. **Every Vote Counts.** As Derek Simpson told us **"No Labour MEPs, no progress. Simple as that."** He's spot on.

Many thanks,



You can make your contribution by talking with your colleagues about why it's important to your workplace to support Labour and progress in Europe.

If you want to register for a postal vote, you'll need to do it by May 19. Please go to or click on this link [http://www.unitetheunion.com/resources/political\\_and\\_policy\\_department/vote\\_by\\_post.aspx](http://www.unitetheunion.com/resources/political_and_policy_department/vote_by_post.aspx) to download a form now, complete it and send it off.

If you need any advice, please email Andrew Dodgshon in Unite's Political Department at [andrew.dodgshon2@unitetheunion.com](mailto:andrew.dodgshon2@unitetheunion.com)