

Failing to defend British interests: Labour MEPs

- 1. In favour of the Lisbon Treaty** – Labour MEPs have consistently supported the Lisbon Treaty. Even when voters in France and the Netherlands rejected the document in 2005, Labour MEPs voted to demonstrate their 'endorsement of the content of the Constitutional Treaty...possibly under a different presentation.'
- 2. Opposed to a referendum** – Labour MEPs repeatedly opposed calls for the British people to have their say on the new EU Treaty – even though the Labour 2005 General Election Manifesto promised a referendum. The former leader of the Labour MEPs even said a referendum would be "ludicrous".
- 3. In favour of Britain joining the Euro** – Labour MEPs have been in favour of Britain ditching the pound and joining the Euro. The former Labour leader in Europe said: "I call on the British Government to renew the focus on British Euro Entry. We must break the dangerous silence surrounding the Euro debate in Britain."
- 4. In favour of EU rules on working time** – In defiance of Labour Government Ministers, Labour MEPs have been at the forefront of moves to scrap Britain's opt-out from the EU Working Time Directive, which limits the amount of overtime people can work.
- 5. Supporting increases in EU spending** – Labour MEPs have repeatedly voted in favour of increases in the EU Budget and for major new spending programmes. For example, they voted to spend £162 million on a 'Citizens for Europe' programme and £36.5 million on a new European Institute for Gender Equality.

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- 6. In favour of an EU space programme** – Labour MEPs have voted for the development of an EU space programme, including 'an operational budget for space assets' and they supported the use of over £2 billion in public funding for an EU satellite programme.
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- 7. Happy to sign off the EU accounts** – The EU Court of Auditors has been unable to give the EU accounts a clean bill of health for 14 successive years, but Labour MEPs vote every year to approve the EU Accounts. The former leader of the Labour MEPs even criticised the Auditors for using 'inappropriate accounting measures.'
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- 8. In favour of a Euro-Army** – Labour MEPs have repeatedly voted in favour of steps towards a European army. For example, they voted in favour of an 'integrated European Armed Force.' Yet on another occasion, they voted that the EU should be a 'nuclear-weapon-free zone.'
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- 9. In favour of red tape** – British businesses frequently complain about excessive red tape burdens from EU regulations. But one Labour MEP said: "as a socialist, I have no difficulty in putting further burdens on industry...but I want value for money."
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- 10. Supporting a 1970s agenda for Europe** – Labour MEPs have signed up to a European Socialist policy plan calling for a series of new EU-wide trade union rights that would take British workplaces back to the 1970s. It also proposes more EU power over justice and home affairs policy, particularly asylum and immigration.
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