

# ***Failing to defend British interests: Liberal Democrat MEPs***

- 1. Support for the EU Lisbon Treaty** – Liberal Democrat MEPs are strong supporters of the EU Lisbon Treaty which gives more powers to the EU. In 2004 they voted to 'endorse the Constitutional Treaty and wholeheartedly support its ratification.' The leader of the Liberal Democrat MEPs has written several books about how to 'rescue' the Treaty after people voted against it in other parts of Europe.
- 2. Opposed to letting the British people decide** – Liberal Democrat MEPs repeatedly opposed calls for a referendum on the new EU Treaty – even though the Liberal Democrat 2005 General Election Manifesto promised one. The former leader of the Liberal Democrat MEPs said: "I was never in favour of a referendum in the first place."
- 3. In favour of Britain joining the Euro** – Liberal Democrat MEPs have argued for Britain to ditch the Pound and join the Euro. Their spokesman in the European Parliament said: "I believe the Euro will continue to show it is an asset..., and I still regret the UK did not, and still doesn't, have the courage to join."
- 4. In favour of more EU spending** – Liberal Democrat MEPs have repeatedly voted in favour of increases in the EU Budget and for big new spending projects. For example, they voted to create a European Institute of Technology (EIT) with an overall budget of over £2 billion for its first six years.
- 5. Happy to approve the EU's flawed accounts** – The EU Court of Auditors has been unable to give the EU accounts a clean bill of health for 14 successive years, but Liberal Democrat MEPs have voted year after year to approve the EU accounts.

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- 6. In favour of EU control of immigration policy** – Liberal Democrats believe that the EU should determine immigration policy for Britain. The leader of their group in Europe has demanded “a comprehensive, joined up European Migration Policy.”
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- 7. Giving the EU control over tax** – Liberal Democrat MEPs have repeatedly voted to give the EU more control over our taxes. When the European Commission decided not to table legislation paving the way for harmonising corporate tax in Europe, Liberal Democrat MEPs said they “regretted” this decision.
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- 8. Caving in over Britain's rebate** – In 1984, Margaret Thatcher negotiated a rebate from the EU Budget for Britain, which used to be worth over £2 billion every year. But Liberal Democrat MEPs voted to phase it out by 2013 and their leader at the time said: “Britain's unique EU Budget rebate must go. It can no longer be justified.”
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- 9. Call for a Euro-Army** – Liberal Democrat MEPs have repeatedly voted in favour of steps towards a European army, such as the creation of an ‘integrated European Armed Force’. They also voted for ‘an EU Diplomatic Academy’ and the establishment of EU ‘embassies.’
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- 10. Ban on fast cars** – As part of an EU law controlling pollution from cars, a Liberal Democrat MEP put forward a proposal for a Europe-wide ban on all cars capable of going faster than 100mph, with effect from 2011. Only military, emergency and police cars would have been exempt. Fortunately, the proposal was voted down.
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