

LOOKING BACK, AHEAD OF #EU2014



Every five years people elect their Members of the European Parliament (MEPs). As the 2014 European election approaches, we look back at some of highlights of the past five years for the European Free Alliance Group of MEPs. During the 2009 – 2014 parliamentary term, EFA MEPs have been elected from Catalunya, Corsica, Galicia, Flanders, Latvia, Scotland, Wales and the Basque Country. Within the Parliament, MEPs work in political groups. EFA MEPs have formed a common group in the European Parliament with the Green parties since 1999. The Greens/EFA Group has 58 MEPs and is the fourth largest in the European Parliament.



EFA GROUP

The European Free Alliance (EFA) Group in the European Parliament has MEPs from Scotland, Wales, Flanders, Latvia, the Basque Country and Corsica, defending the interests of Europe's stateless nations, regions and minorities.



L to R:
Alyn Smith, Ian Hudghton,
Tatjana Zdanoka,
Jill Evans, Inaki Irazabalbeitia,
Mark Demesmaeker,
François Alfonsi

EFA MEPs

LANGUAGES

There are far more languages in Europe than just the EU's 24 official languages. EFA MEPs have campaigned for official status for Basque, Welsh, Catalan and Galician, and co-official status for Corsican and others. François Alfonsi, the European Parliament's only Corsican-speaking MEP, won Parliament's approval for his influential report on Europe's endangered languages.



PROMOTING LANGUAGE DIVERSITY

UNITY IN DIVERSITY

CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE

Europe is seeing constitutional change from within as more and more people demand a democratic say over their own national futures. Both Scotland and Catalonia hold independence referendums in 2014. The EFA Group organised a series of conferences and events to look at the so-called 'internal enlargement' of the EU in more depth.



EFA CONFERENCE : THE RIGHT TO DECIDE

SELF-DETERMINATION

EFA has long supported peoples' right to self-determination and freedom around the world. In recent years, EFA MEPs have been active in support of peaceful democracy movements in Palestine, Kurdistan and Western Sahara. Some EFA MEPs visited Palestine and Israel in 2012 to view the situation at first hand and produced a film of their visit.



EFA VISIT TO PALESTINE

UNITY IN DIVERSITY

BASQUE PEACE PROCESS

EFA MEPs have campaigned for EU support to help bring about a permanent, peaceful resolution to the conflict in the Basque Country.



EP BASQUE FRIENDSHIP GROUP

REFORMING AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND COHESION POLICIES

EFA MEPs have been actively involved in the reform of key EU policy areas over the past few years. This has included agriculture, fisheries and cohesion policy.

Promoting more sustainable agriculture and fisheries industries with a viable future is vital, whilst balancing environmental and economic considerations, with the realities of daily life for Europe's farmers and fishing communities.

Developing a macro-regional strategy for the Mediterranean and the reform of cohesion policy, in particular the new rules for territorial co-operation, were also key issues for EFA.



IAN HUDGTON MEP

FOR MORE INFORMATION



European Free Alliance
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