

THE  
EUROPEAN  
**FREE**  
ALLIANCE  
GROUP

IN THE  
EUROPEAN  
PARLIAMENT



European Free Alliance  
in the European Parliament



<b>EFA IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>MEMBERS OF THE EFA STAFF</b>	<b>27</b>



**EFA**  
**IN THE**  
**EUROPEAN**  
**PARLIAMENT**



EFA MEPs - Left to right: Alyn Smith, Tatjana Ždanoka, François Alfonsi, Jill Evans, Ian Hudghton, Frieda Brepoels, Ana Miranda

# About us

Every five years people elect their Members of the European Parliament (MEPs).

The European Free Alliance is made up of MEPs from stateless nations, regions and minorities. In the 2009 - 2014 term EFA MEPs have been elected from Catalunya, Corsica, Galicia, Flanders, Latvia, Scotland and Wales.

Within the Parliament MEPs work in political groups. EFA members have formed a common group in the European Parliament with the Green Parties since 1999.

## EFA's aims and objectives

The EFA Group in the European Parliament works for:

- self-determination for nations and regions
- the decentralisation of decision making
- the protection of human rights
- a strong, sustainable economy
- international solidarity

## A little history

The European Free Alliance was formed in Brussels in 1981 as an alliance of like minded political parties.

At a meeting in Barcelona in 2004, EFA became one of the first registered European Political Parties, following new EU rules on party registration. EFA member parties represented in the European Parliament have formed a parliamentary group since 1999.


EFA has 37 member parties. Across Europe, EFA member parties are in government in several different countries, regions or stateless nations.

For more information on EFA the political party see [www.e-f-a.org](http://www.e-f-a.org)



*EFA MEPs take a stand on human rights and democracy*  
*From Nations to Member States - an EFA conference at the European Parliament*



The background consists of a dense pattern of overlapping, semi-transparent green circles in various shades, ranging from light lime green to a darker forest green. A thin, white circular outline is positioned on the right side of the image, partially overlapping the green circles.

MEMBERS  
OF THE  
EUROPEAN  
PARLIAMENT





## Jill Evans

President of the EFA Group

Wales

Plaid Cymru - The Party of Wales



### About Jill

Born in the Rhondda in 1959, Jill attended Aberystwyth University and then worked as a Research Assistant at the Polytechnic of Wales where she gained her M.Phil. Degree. She worked for the National Federation of Women's Institutes in Wales and later for CHILD - The National Infertility Support Network.

Jill was a County Councillor for seven years and was Plaid Cymru's Alternate Member of the Committee of the Regions from 1993 to 1997. She was Chair of Plaid Cymru 1994-96 and was first elected to the European Parliament in 1999 - one of the first MEPs in Plaid Cymru's history.

Jill was re-elected to the European Parliament in 2004 and 2009. She is President of Plaid Cymru - The Party of Wales, party spokesperson for European and International issues and was chair of CND Cymru for ten years.

### About Plaid Cymru

Founded in 1925, Plaid Cymru - The Party of Wales is a left wing nationalist party that advocates Welsh independence within the EU. The party campaigns for social justice, local democracy, sustainable development and international peace and justice.

Plaid Cymru was part of the 'One Wales' coalition government of Wales from 2007 - 2011 and delivered the successful referendum on law-making powers for Wales' National Assembly.

[www.plaidcymru.org](http://www.plaidcymru.org)

### Jill in the European Parliament

- President of the EFA Group
- First Vice President of the Greens/EFA Group
- Member of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety
- Substitute Member of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development
- Substitute Member of the Delegation for relations with the Palestinian Legislative Council and of the Delegation for relations with Iraq

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## Frieda Brepoels

Vice President of the EFA Group

Flanders

Nieuw-Vlaamse Alliantie (N-VA)



### About Frieda

An architect by profession, Frieda has been active in politics for almost 30 years, from local council (in Bilzen from 1982-1991 and in Hasselt from 2006-2011), to provincial (as Council Member from 1985-1987 and as Deputy from 1991-1999), Flemish (Member of the Flemish Council 1987-1991) and federal level (Member of the Federal Parliament from 1987-1991 and 1999-2003). In 2004 she was elected to the European Parliament where she has worked mainly on environment, public health and civil liberties issues.

Re-elected in June 2009, Frieda joined the European Free Alliance and works in the committees on foreign affairs and environment, public health and food safety, and the subcommittee on human rights. Frieda Brepoels lives in Bilzen, in the Flemish province of Limburg.

### About the N-VA

The *Nieuw-Vlaamse Alliantie* (N-VA) is a Flemish nationalist party, with roots in the Flemish emancipation movement. The party promotes inclusive and democratic nationalism and is pro-European. The N-VA was created in 2001, as the successor of the People's Union (Volksunie).

Currently, the N-VA has representatives in the Flemish Parliament, as well as members of the Federal Parliament, the Senate, the Brussels Parliament and the European Parliament. The N-VA is also part of the Flemish government (2009-2014). N-VA strives for a stronger Flanders as an independent Member State in a stronger Europe.

[www.n-va.be](http://www.n-va.be)

### Frieda in the European Parliament:

- Vice President of the EFA group
- Member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Delegation for Relations with Japan and of the Euromed delegation
- Substitute member of the Subcommittee on Human Rights, the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety and of the Mashreq delegation
- Member of the ad hoc working group on the Middle East
- President EP Section Parliamentary Network for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament
- Chair of the MEP group for kidney health, Vice Chair of the Alzheimer Alliance in the European Parliament and Vice President of the Members Against Cancer

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## Ian Hudghton

Vice President of the EFA Group

Scotland

Scottish National Party



### About Ian

Ian Hudghton was first elected to the European Parliament in 1998, sitting alongside Winnie Ewing until her election to the Scottish Parliament. Prior to this he served as one of Scotland's four members of the EU Committee of the Regions. In the 1999 European elections Ian headed the SNP list, and was joined by Professor Neil MacCormick for a very productive five year partnership.

In 2004 and 2009 Ian once again led the SNP list of candidates. In 2009 the SNP had a highly successful election result, winning more votes than any other Party. In July 2009 Ian was elected Vice-President of the European Free Alliance Group.

Following Winnie Ewing's retirement in September 2005, Ian was elected President of the Scottish National Party, and has been re-elected each year since.

### About the SNP

The Scottish National Party is a left leaning, pro-European, nationalist party that advocates Scotland's independence from the United Kingdom. Formed in 1934, the SNP has been represented continuously in the European Parliament since 1975 and was once again the largest party in Scotland at the 2009 European elections. The party is also represented in the United Kingdom Parliament, and has a substantial presence at local government level in Scotland.

The Scottish National Party won an overall majority in the 2011 election to the Scottish Parliament and has pledged to hold a referendum on Scottish independence.

[www.snp.org](http://www.snp.org)

### Ian in the European Parliament

- Vice President of the EFA Group
- Member of the Committee on Fisheries, Committee on Regional Development, and the Delegation for relations with Canada
- Substitute Member of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection and of the Delegation to the EU-Croatia Joint Parliamentary Committee

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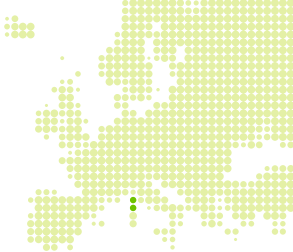
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## François Alfonsi

Corsica

U Partitu di a Nazione Corsa



### About François

First elected to the European Parliament in 2009, François Alfonsi is a long standing campaigner for Corsican autonomy and for the interests of Corsica. He was elected to the European Parliament as part of a joint candidate list with the 'Europe Ecologie' movement of Daniel Cohn-Bendit which brought together progressive green, regionalist and autonomist forces with tremendous success at the 2009 European elections.

Europe Ecologie's best result in a single area was in Corsica at the 2009 elections where it took 24% of the vote.

Born in Ajaccio in 1953, François studied mathematics and later qualified as an engineer. He has been the Mayor of Osani since 2002 and served as a member of the National Assembly of Corsica between 1987 and 1998.

He is the only Corsican politician elected to the European Parliament.

### About the PNC

*U Partitu di a Nazione Corsa* or Party of the Corsican Nation (PNC) was founded in Corti, Corsica in 2002 drawing together members from three other Corsican nationalist parties. The PNC is a progressive, pro-European political party which advocates autonomy for Corsica by purely peaceful and democratic means.

The party has a history of co-operation with other regionalist and autonomist movements as well as with greens and environmentalists. The party produces *Arritti*, a weekly political journal that has been published for over 40 years.

[www.p-n-c.eu](http://www.p-n-c.eu)

### François in the European Parliament

- Member of the Committee on Regional Development, Delegation to the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly and of the Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean
- Substitute Member of the Committee on Budgets, Committee on Culture and Education and of the Delegation for relations with the Maghreb countries and the Arab Maghreb Union
- Co-Chair of the Intergroup for Traditional Minorities, Languages and National Communities

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## Ana Miranda

Galicia

Bloque Nacionalista Galego



### About Ana

Born in Cuntis in 1971, Ana Miranda grew up in Vigo, Galicia. Ana studied law at Santiago de Compostela and at Passau in Germany, before specialising in European law at the University of Louvain.

In Brussels, Ana won a Leonardo scholarship and worked at the Council of Ministers, focussing on political and social cohesion. She later worked in the office of BNG MEP Camilo Nogueira at the European Parliament from 1999 until 2004.

From 2004 until her election to the European Parliament, Ana has been the BNG representative in Brussels. She also serves as Vice President of the European Free Alliance, European political party.

### About BNG

Founded in 1982, the *Bloque Nacionalista Galego* is a left wing Galician nationalist coalition, which campaigns for Galicia's right to self-determination as a nation. Often described as a "patriotic front", the grouping is made up of a number of left wing Galician political parties. The BNG is the third largest political group in the Galician Parliament, it is also represented in local government across Galicia, and has members in Spain's Congress of Deputies. Between 2005 and 2009, it was part of the coalition government in Galicia. The BNG works for greater devolution of powers to Galicia and for recognition of the Galician nation. It also works to improve the status of the Galician language, and campaigns for a social model that promotes economic development, rather than dependency, and which favours the welfare of citizens. The BNG also fights for solidarity, anti-imperialism, and peace and disarmament in the international arena.

[www.bng-galiza.org](http://www.bng-galiza.org)

### Ana in the European Parliament

- Member of Committee on Regional Development and of the Petitions Committee
- Member of the Delegation for relations with the Mercosur countries, and of the Delegation to the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly
- Substitute member of the Fisheries Committee, of the Women's Rights Committee, and of the EU - Chile Joint Parliamentary Committee

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## Alyn Smith

Scotland  
Scottish National Party

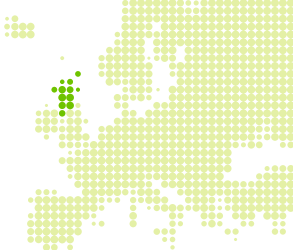


### About Alyn

Born in Glasgow in 1973, Alyn grew up in Scotland and Saudi Arabia, returning to Scotland in 1986. He attended Leeds University and spent an Erasmus year studying at Heidelberg in Germany.

He graduated from Nottingham Law School in 1996. Alyn also gained a Masters degree in European Studies from the College of Europe in Warsaw. After a spell working with Scotland Europa in Brussels, Alyn moved to London where he qualified as a lawyer with commercial law firm Clifford Chance.

In 2000 Alyn moved back to Scotland working first for a legal firm in Edinburgh and from 2002 for Richard Lochhead MSP then the SNP Group in the Scottish Parliament as an adviser on European, Justice and Business policies. Elected to the European Parliament for the first time in 2004, Alyn is Scotland's youngest MEP.



### About the SNP

The Scottish National Party is a left leaning, pro-European, nationalist party that advocates Scotland's independence from the United Kingdom. Formed in 1934, the SNP has been represented continuously in the European Parliament since 1975 and was once again the largest party in Scotland at the 2009 European elections. The party is also represented in the United Kingdom Parliament, and has a substantial presence at local government level in Scotland.

The Scottish National Party won an overall majority in the 2011 election to the Scottish Parliament and has pledged to hold a referendum on Scottish independence.

[www.snp.org](http://www.snp.org)

### Alyn in the European Parliament

- Member of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, and the Delegation for relations with the Arab Peninsula
- Substitute Member of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy
- Substitute Member of the Delegation for relations with Switzerland and Norway and to the EU-Iceland Joint Parliamentary Committee and the European Economic Area (EEA) Joint Parliamentary Committee

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## Tatjana Ždanoka

Latvia

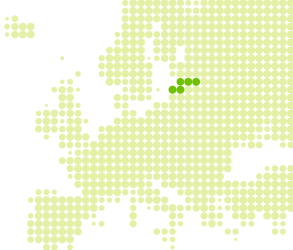
Par cilvēka tiesībām vienotā Latvijā



### About Tatjana

Born in Riga in 1950, Tatjana Ždanoka studied mathematics at the University of Latvia, and the University of Montpellier. Tatjana holds a PhD from the University of Latvia where she was a lecturer in higher mathematics from 1972 - 1990. She has been involved in elected politics since the late 1980s as a member of Riga City Council and later the Supreme Council of Latvia.

Following Latvia's independence, Tatjana became a fervent campaigner for the rights of Russian speakers. She was a founder member of the Latvian Human Rights Committee set up in 1992 to combat discrimination against minorities, and later a leader of the political party Equal Rights which went on to merge with others to form Par cilvēka tiesībām vienotā Latvijā (For Human Rights in a United Latvia). First elected to the European Parliament in 2004, Tatjana was re-elected in 2009 and is known in the European Parliament for her work on human rights and civil liberties issues. In her spare time Tatjana enjoys skiing, knitting and cooking.



### About PCTVL

*Par cilvēka tiesībām vienotā Latvijā* or For Human Rights in a United Latvia, is a left of centre political party founded in 1998.

The party campaigns for equal rights for all residents of Latvia regardless of ethnic origin or linguistic background. PCTVL has been particularly active in defending the rights of Latvia's 'non-citizens' - the almost 400,000 permanent residents of Latvia who were not granted citizenship after independence.

The party has also been prominent in opposing cuts in Russian language education in a country where Russian is the first language of almost 40% of the population.

[www.pctvl.lv](http://www.pctvl.lv)

### Tatjana in the European Parliament

- Vice-Chair of the Delegation to the EU-Moldova Parliamentary Cooperation Committee
- Member of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, Committee on Petitions and of the Delegation to the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly
- Substitute Member of the Committee on Transport and Tourism and the Delegation to the EU-Russia Parliamentary Cooperation Committee

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Frieda Brepoels at the European Parliament Open Day

Independence in Europe - an EFA conference at the European Parliament



[www.e-f-a.org](http://www.e-f-a.org)

[www.greens-efa.org](http://www.greens-efa.org)

*The European Free Alliance (EFA) Group in the European Parliament includes MEPs from Scotland, Wales, Flanders, Galicia, Corsica and Latvia, who advance the cause of Europe's stateless nations, regions and disadvantaged minorities.*

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**The Greens | European Free Alliance**  
in the European Parliament