

THE
EUROPEAN
FREE
ALLIANCE
GROUP

IN THE
EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT



European Free Alliance
in the European Parliament

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EFA
IN THE
EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT



EFA MEPs. Left to Right: Ian Hudghton, Jill Evans, Josep-Maria Terricabras, Tatjana Ždanoka, Alyn Smith, Jordi Solé.

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 2014 - 2019 term EFA MEPs have been elected from Catalonia, Galicia, Latvia, Scotland, Valencia, Wales and the Basque Country.

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 more than 40 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


For more information on the EFA parliamentary group see www.efa.greens-efa.eu



Josep Maria Terricabras, President of the EFA Group in the European Parliament



Jordi Solé voting at the European Parliament



MEMBERS
OF THE
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Josep-Maria Terricabras

President of the EFA Group

Catalonia

Esquerra Republicana de Catalunya



About Josep-Maria

Born in Calella in 1946, Josep-Maria Terricabras was a Professor of Philosophy at the University of Girona prior to his election to the European Parliament in May 2014, as part of the *L'Esquerra pel dret a decidir* broad-left electoral coalition, which promotes the independence of Catalonia and social justice.

He is a graduate of the University of Barcelona and the University of Münster, and has been a visiting research fellow at the University of Münster, St John's College, Cambridge, and the University of California, Berkeley. His academic speciality is contemporary thought and he has published widely. He is also a member of the Catalan National Assembly (ANC), a civil society based grass-roots movement which draws together people of all backgrounds who want to see Catalonia become a new European state, and of the *Institut d'Estudis Catalans* (IEC), (Institute of Catalan Studies).

About Esquerra Republicana

Esquerra Republicana de Catalunya (Republican Left of Catalonia) is Catalonia's oldest political party, formed in 1931. During the Second Spanish Republic (1931 -1939), ERC was Catalonia's most popular political party and led the Catalan government. There then followed a brutal period of dictatorship, exile and repression.

Since the restoration of democracy in 1977, Esquerra's fortunes have continued to improve and the party has elected representatives at all levels of government. ERC is a left-wing, republican party which advocates Catalan independence from Spain and membership of the EU. Today the party is once again one of Catalonia's largest political parties, winning the 2014 European elections in Catalonia.

www.esquerra.cat

Josep-Maria in the European Parliament

- President of the EFA Group and First Vice President of the Greens/EFA Group
- Member of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs and of the Committee on Petitions
- Member of the Delegation to the EU-Mexico Joint Parliamentary Committee and the Delegation to the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly
- Substitute member of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs and of the Delegation to the EU-Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Joint Parliamentary Committee

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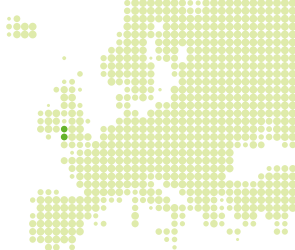


Jill Evans

Vice-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 two MEPs in Plaid Cymru's history.

Jill was re-elected to the European Parliament in 2004, 2009 and 2014. She is the Plaid Cymru - The Party of Wales spokesperson for European and International issues and was the party's first female president when elected in 2010.

Jill was Chair of CND Cymru for ten years. She is also an Honorary Associate Member of British Veterinary Association and an Executive Fellow of the Institute for Competition and Procurement Studies (ICPS) at Bangor University.

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 has been represented at the Westminster parliament since 1966 and is the second largest party in the National Assembly for Wales, as well as having a significant presence in local government across the country.

www.plaid.cymru

Jill in the European Parliament

- Vice President of the EFA Group
- Member of the Committee on Culture and Education
- 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
- Substitute member of the Committee on Transport and Tourism

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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, 2009 and 2014 Ian again led the SNP list of candidates. The SNP has comfortably topped the poll in Scotland at the last two European elections. Ian was first elected Vice-President of the European Free Alliance Group in 2009, and re-elected in 2014. 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 2014 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 is Scotland's largest party and has formed the government of Scotland since 2007.

www.snp.org

Ian in the European Parliament

- Vice President of the EFA Group
- Member of the Committee on Fisheries
- Member of the Delegation for relations with Japan
- Substitute member of the Committee on Culture and Education and of the Delegation for relations with the United States

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Jordi Solé

Catalonia

Esquerra Republicana de Catalunya



About Jordi

Jordi Solé became an MEP in January 2017, replacing Ernest Maragall in the European Free Alliance Group. Jordi studied Political Science at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, before completing a Masters in European Studies at the Europa Universität Viadrina, Frankfurt an der Oder.

Born in Caldes de Montbui, Catalonia, in 1976, Jordi was elected Mayor of his home town in 2007, a position he still holds.

Jordi Solé is Secretary General of the EFA political party and served as a Member of the Catalan Parliament from 2012 to 2015, where he chaired the Committee on Foreign affairs, Cooperation and European Union. In 2016 he was the Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Catalan Government.

From 2002 to 2007 he worked in the European Parliament as a political advisor.

About Nova Esquerra Catalana

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Since the restoration of democracy in 1977, Esquerra's fortunes have continued to improve and the party has elected representatives at all levels of government. ERC is a left-wing, republican party which advocates Catalan independence from Spain and membership of the EU. Today the party is once again one of Catalonia's largest political parties, winning the 2014 European elections in Catalonia.

www.esquerra.cat

Jordi in the European Parliament

- Member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Budgets
- Member of the Delegation to the EU-Turkey Joint Parliamentary Committee
- Substitute member of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality and of the Subcommittee on Human Rights
- Substitute member of the 'Panama Papers' Committee of Inquiry on alleged money laundering, tax avoidance and tax evasion.
- Substitute member of the Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean

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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 was re-elected in 2009 and 2014.

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 2014 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 is Scotland's largest party and has formed the government of Scotland since 2007.

www.snp.org

Alyn in the European Parliament

- Member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs
- Member of the Delegation for relations with the Arab Peninsula, and the Delegation for relations with Iraq
- Substitute Member of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

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Tatjana Ždanoka

Latvia
Latvian Russian Union



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 in 1998 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 2014 and is known in the European Parliament for her work on human rights and social affairs.

About Latvian Russian Union

The Latvian Russian Union (*Latvijas Krievu savienība*) was established in January 2014, having evolved out of the former party For Human Rights in a United Latvia. It is a left wing political party which campaigns for equal rights for all residents of Latvia regardless of ethnic origin or linguistic background. It has been particularly active in defending the rights of Latvia's 'non-citizens' - the almost 800,000 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 language of almost 40% of the population.

www.pctvl.lv

Tatjana in the European Parliament

- Vice-Chair of the Delegation to the EU-Kazakhstan, EU-Kyrgyzstan and EU-Uzbekistan Parliamentary Cooperation Committees, and for relations with Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Mongolia
- Member of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs and of the Committee on Petitions
- Substitute member of the Delegation for relations with Belarus and of the Delegation to the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly

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Photo Mahfourz Abturk

EFA visit to the West Bank and East Jerusalem

Discussing the Catalan referendum at the European Parliament



www.efa.greens-efa.eu

The European Free Alliance (EFA) Group in the European Parliament brings together MEPs who advance the cause of Europe's stateless nations, regions and disadvantaged minorities.

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