

European Elections May 2019: A briefing for voters

# WILL YOU VOTE TO RE-PROTECT EUROPE?

This year we have the chance to choose the members of the European Parliament.

Fighting **climate change**, improving **air quality**, protecting unique **natural places**, ending **plastic pollution** and stopping **toxic chemicals** from reaching the market: EU laws have kept us safe for years.

But **crucial protections can no longer be taken for granted**. Some politicians have been working hard to tear up the rules that keep us and our environment safe. They claim regulations are a 'burden' on business and their attempt to weaken or destroy EU laws is known as 'deregulation'.

## Deregulation threatens our rights and interests

EU regulations drive up standards, encourage competition and give us confidence in the products we buy. Rather than being a threat to business, **reputable companies value good rules**, which ensure a level playing field on which they can thrive.

**74% of Europeans** are worried about the impact of plastic on their health and **87%** are worried about the impact on the environment.

## Healthy competition in a safe and fair market

No company should be making its profits by polluting more than its competitors. **EU regulations are important** and help to protect businesses, consumers and the environment from unfair or dangerous practices.

The EU's Industrial Emissions Directive provides essential environmental and safety standards for more than **50,000 industrial facilities** across Europe.

When the EU's nature laws were threatened, **more than half a million EU citizens** objected, The European Parliament stood up to protect Europe's precious wildlife.

## The European Parliament can re-protect Europe

The world faces unprecedented challenges. Instead of stripping back or cutting regulations, **the EU must take a lead once again**. Environmental crimes must not go unpunished, polluters must pay, and people must be protected.

We need to support candidates that will defend EU laws and protect our rights and interests. Rather than throwing away regulations that protect us, we need MEPs that will defend and promote sensible regulation that once again protects what we hold dear. **We call this 're-protection' and we are asking candidates to help re-protect Europe.**





# We can be safer and healthier with the right EU

## Climate change

In 2018 the EU raised its target for cutting CO2 emissions from passenger cars. The European Parliament rejected an initial proposal of 30% and negotiated a higher target of 37.5%, cutting carbon and improving the quality of the air we breathe. **An ambitious European Parliament will do more to tackle dangerous climate change.**

## Health

People are suffering from previously treatable diseases as dangerous bacteria become resistant to lifesaving drugs. The EU could step in to protect antibiotics by limiting their use on farms. **The European Parliament can help to write laws that protect our health and reduce pharmaceutical pollution.**

## Money

The European Parliament must approve the EU Budget. That's €140 billion every year that could be used to fight climate change, protect nature and address other pressing concerns. **We need a European Parliament that ensures that EU money is spent responsibly.**

## Chemicals

The EU has a world-leading chemicals regulation designed to protect human health and the environment from harmful substances. Despite this, dangerous chemicals still make it onto the European market. **We need a European Parliament that protects citizens with effective chemicals regulation.**

## Your vote is crucial

Your vote matters at this election. Find out who is standing in your region and make sure you are registered. Find out more about the EU and the European Parliament and share what you learn.

This May, use your power to protect what you love - the wellbeing of you and your family, your community and your environment - and vote for a candidate who will uphold and strengthen EU protections.

For more information [eeb.org/eu2019](http://eeb.org/eu2019) [meta.eeb.org](http://meta.eeb.org)

## What can I do?

Share the story of why this vote is important to you on social media.

Check what your MEP candidates are saying about re-protection.

Vote for a re-protected Europe in May.

**#ReProtectEurope**  
**#ThisTimeImVoting**

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With the support of the LIFE programme of the European Union  
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