

GREENING EUROPE

NEWS FROM MOLLY SCOTT CATO GREEN MEP FOR THE SOUTH WEST AND MEMBER OF THE GREEN GROUP IN EUROPE SPRING 2018



SPOTLIGHT ON BREXIT

Molly is Green Party speaker on Brexit. Here she explains why she wants to #StopBrexit.

Eighteen months on from the referendum, we see a country divided and a government in chaos with no ability to negotiate with our European partners. We are losing credibility, losing investment, and losing friends.

We now have a much clearer idea of the dubious forces behind the Brexit campaign—an alliance of far-right ideologues, climate change deniers, tax-dodging foreign billionaires and specialists in voter manipulation. Details about this unholy alliance can be found on my website: badboysofbrexit.com.

Also, since 2016, many people have gained a clearer understanding of the benefits of our EU membership. And, by the time we really plan to leave the EU, there will be a whole new generation of young voters—who are overwhelmingly pro-Europe.

For all these reasons, I am campaigning with other Greens for a final say—a referendum on the final deal, with the option of remaining in the EU.

Democracy didn't end in June 2016. When we know the terms of the Brexit deal we have a democratic right to decide whether we still think leaving the EU is in the best interests of the country.

If you believe Brexit is a disaster for our country there are a number of things you can do:

- Argue for a Final Say referendum.
- Lobby your MPs! They will have a vote on the final deal. Tell them you want continued membership of the single market and customs union and to support a Final Say referendum.
- Join an organisation campaigning against the Tories disastrous Brexit plans and/or for Labour to change its position: Best for Britain; Our Future Our Choice; Britain in Europe (with local branches across the country); the European Movement.
- Stay informed by signing up for Molly's regular Brexit e-news: <http://bit.ly/brexitnews>

DRIVING OFF THE CLIFF EDGE

Honda, one of the West country's largest employers, has said it will not be able to make cars profitably in the UK if it cannot secure free access to the EU market. Molly recently visited their car plant in Swindon, meeting with company bosses to discuss the implications of Brexit. She also learned about the company's exciting plans for hydrogen vehicles.

Molly says: *To safeguard jobs and ensure business confidence the government must commit to remain members of both the single market and customs union. Brexiteer bluster about a new dawn for 'global Britain' needs a reality check.*

Almost half of UK exports in goods and services went to the EU in 2016, worth some £240 billion and growing by nearly 6%. Exports to non-EU countries rose by just 0.2%. Leaving our key market will clearly have a devastating impact on thousands of businesses and hundreds of thousands of jobs.



▲ Molly at Honda with their hydrogen car.
Photo by Dave Cox, Swindon Advertiser

KEEPING UP WITH MOLLY

Regular e-news: <http://bit.ly/mscnews>

Brexit e-news: www.bit.ly/mscbrexit

Latest news: www.mollymep.org.uk

Parliamentary activity: http://bit.ly/MS_C_EP

Facebook: Molly Scott Cato MEP

Twitter: @MollyMEP



GREENING THE SOUTH WEST

Molly regularly visits organisations, businesses and initiatives across the region involved in addressing some of the environmental and social problems we face.



SEA CHANGE FOR FISHING

Molly recently visited 'Sole of Discretion', a collective of small scale fishers fishing out of Plymouth Harbour. They are committed to catching fish without damaging the marine environment, while also contributing to the livelihood of small-scale fishers and their communities. She says:

Every fish can be traced back to an individual fisher, so guaranteeing it has been caught without damage to the marine environment. This community owned initiative ensures fisherman are paid an agreed price and profits go back into their fishing communities.

Sole of Discretion also campaign for fishing quotas to be allocated according to environmental and social criteria, not just economic. Molly added:

How we treat our small-scale fisheries will be a real test of the government's pledge on a 'Green Brexit'. Even now, within the Common Fisheries Policy, it is up to our Government to allocate the English fishing quota. Just 4% of the quota goes to the few thousand small English fishing boats while one enormous Dutch fishing boat has managed to angle a colossal 23%.

As with so many issues, the government points the finger at Brussels. But it is their own decisions which have cast small-scale fishermen adrift.

KEEPING THE HOME FIRES BURNING

There have been concerns expressed recently about the contribution of log-burners towards air pollution, especially in cities. Molly recently visited an Exeter-based company working to design a low or zero emissions stove. This successful innovation involves a dual chamber system creating a 'secondary burn' of harmful gases and pollutants. Molly says:

It is great that a South West company is spearheading innovation to limit or eliminate harmful emissions from log-burners, proving that burning solid fuels can be both a sustainable and comforting way of heating our homes.

Image from Hunter Stoves. ►



EUROPEAN FOCUS

AUTHORISING GLYPHOSATE

The European Parliament has backed a Green proposal for a special committee to investigate the authorisation procedure for glyphosate, Europe's most used herbicide. It is suspected of causing some cancers and other adverse health effects in humans, farm animals and wildlife.

Greens have serious concerns about whether rules have been followed during the decision-making process and question why scientific studies demonstrating the dangers of glyphosate have been ignored. Molly says:

This committee will have a vital role in establishing how we can make the evaluation processes more transparent. It's time to shine a spotlight on who is pulling the strings when it comes to authorising these potentially toxic and environmentally damaging products.

Almost one and a half million people across Europe have signed a petition calling for a Europe-wide ban on glyphosate. Their voices definitely helped secure this investigation.



BAGGING THE WAR ON PLASTIC

The UK government's 25-year plan for the environment focuses on reducing plastic waste. The key policy is an extension of the 5p charge on plastic bags. Theresa May claimed credit for this 'war on plastic', but it simply fulfils an EU Directive on plastic pollution, designed by Greens in Europe. Meanwhile, the EU has launched its own more ambitious plastics strategy. Molly says:

Tackling the scourge of plastic pollution is vital, but this provides a useful distraction from the many government policies that are trashing our environment, including road building, airport expansion and fracking.

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