



MONTHLY  
NEWS FROM  
EUROPE DIRECT  
LEEDS

# Europe Talk

[www.europedirectleeds.org.uk](http://www.europedirectleeds.org.uk)



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## Latest News

### Europe Direct Leeds took part in Adult Learners Week

By providing language taster sessions in German, Welsh, Spanish and Portuguese. Students enjoyed these thoroughly and most said they would aim to further their language skills.

### Staff Training

As part of ongoing training provided by Brussels one member of staff has attended a General Training Seminar about the effects of the economic and financial crisis this April, another staff member is going to attend a seminar on the topic of Climate Change in June.

## Why vote?

**Yes, you. You decide. By voting.**

By voting in EP elections, you choose who influences your future and the daily life of close to 500 million fellow Europeans. If you don't bother, somebody else will - and decide who represents you at the only directly elected Pan-European assembly. Elected MEPs shape the future of Europe for 5 upcoming years. Get the Europe you want! If you don't vote, don't complain.



### MEPs – Your voice in Europe

Your MEP is your voice in Europe - why would you let it go wasted? Elected every five years, the European Parliament is a major and powerful player in European Union's decision-making. Its votes shape final EU legislation that influences your everyday life, be it the food on our plates, the cost of your shopping trolley, the quality of the air you breathe, or the safety of your children's toys.

### It's your right to vote!

As a European citizen, voting in EP elections is your fundamental right and the means to have a say in how the EU works. By voting, you participate in determining who will represent real people like you, your family and friends, your neighbours and workmates in Europe. And as an EU citizen you can vote (or stand for election!) in whatever EU country you live, even if you are not a citizen of that country. And, what's more, it won't cost you a penny!

### It's for people and prosperity!

Young or old, student or retired, man or woman, employed or independent, mainstream or alternative, town or country dweller, Europe concerns all of us, often without us realising! Thanks to Europe, we can easily travel, study and work abroad. The EP works tirelessly for a cleaner environment, safer chemicals, better services and jobs. It is an ardent defender of consumer rights, equal opportunities and human rights both in the EU and abroad.

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## Don't Miss Out Hot Topics in Europe this month

The European Economy  
Social Responsibility  
The European Elections

## WebNews Monthly Picks



### We like these links...

UK Office of the European  
Parliament

<http://www.europarl.org.uk/>

### Q&A

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/7819889.stm>

European Election: Results

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/elections2009/results/default.htm>

Interactive Map of the  
European Union

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/elections2009/countries/default.htm?language=EN>

### One poll - 375 million voters

In June 2009, You will have a unique opportunity to go to polls along with 375 million fellow European voters. What for? To elect both the world's only directly elected transnational and multilingual parliament, and the EU's only directly elected institution. Elected by the people since 1979, European Parliament represents today almost half a billion citizens.

### Heavyweight MEPs

In most cases, MEPs have as much weight as the Member States in EU decision-making. Most laws that concern our daily lives are legislated side by side by MEPs and ministers at EU level. Many, probably most, laws enacted in your country are a transposition of European acts voted by MEPs - your representatives. And it's not just laws: money for new roads, cleaner beaches, research, education, development aid? MEPs also decide where our EU money goes.

### In the pipeline, even weightier MEPs

With the new Lisbon Treaty, once it can be implemented, MEPs' decision-making powers over EU affairs will once more increase. It will place the Parliament on an equal footing as lawmaker with Member States' ministers in virtually all areas of EU policy. The Parliament will also elect the President of the European Commission, strengthening its control over the EU executive. Furthermore, you as an EU citizen will have a right to initiate European laws.

### It's politics! It's democracy!

Love the EU? Hate it? Want it to turn to the right? Or the left? Is there some issue you care passionately about? Are there changes you want to see? Action that can't wait? Investments that should be made? Elect MEPs who see it your way and you could make it happen. That's what democracy is all about. Make the difference.

### It's a small effort for a big outcome

Come on! It's just a few minutes, maybe you can combine it with a walk in the park or a drink in a café. Not much effort to tell Europe what you want. After that it's easy to follow what your elected members are doing for you - just visit [www.europarl.europa.eu](http://www.europarl.europa.eu)!

## This Month's Q&A

**Q: I am teaching a session on Climate Change for my KS2 class. Where can I get materials from?**

A: You can contact Europe Direct Leeds who can bulk-order EU publications for you. Or you log on to the EU Bookshop website on <http://bookshop.europa.eu/eubookshop/> and order single copies of publications for yourself.



You can also find information on [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/home\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/home_en.htm) and related websites.