



**Socialist Group in the  
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Dear Colleague,

I am writing on behalf of all my Labour MEP colleagues to urge you to give your full support to the Lisbon Treaty during its forthcoming passage through parliament.

A European Union of 27 member countries urgently needs to bring its rulebook up to date if it is going to work more efficiently and effectively. We on the Labour side in the European Parliament firmly believe that the new Reform Treaty will deliver the kind of EU we want to see, while safeguarding Britain's vital national interests.

Since the rejection of the old Constitutional Treaty by the voters of France and the Netherlands over 2 years ago, a more realistic mood has prevailed in Europe. It has led to a new Treaty, which is not only different to its predecessor but drops the elements in the original text that proved so controversial. Shortly before Christmas, EU heads of government formally signed the new Treaty and it now goes to all 27 EU member countries for ratification.

The EPLP strongly suspects that the PLP is as tired as we all are of the institutional navel-gazing and wrangling that has gripped Europe for far too long. Ratification of the Lisbon Treaty will finally enable the EU to move on and concentrate on the things that really matter to our constituents.

We all know that in a globalised world, many of the great challenges we face cannot be resolved by countries acting alone. Issues like climate change, migration, human rights, security and terrorism respect no national borders. They demand a collective response.

That we can achieve far more working together than we can alone has always been at the heart of Labour's philosophy. The Reform Treaty gives us the chance to put this core belief into practice to build a new Europe that is both positive and realistic. It also offers us the opportunity to contrast our confident and forward-looking approach with Tory policy on Europe, which is inward-looking, fearful and totally incapable of responding to the great challenges of the modern world.

The debates that will take place in both Houses of Parliament over the coming weeks can be used to highlight the potential of the Lisbon Treaty to make a real difference to people's lives, from children's rights to development assistance, renewable energy targets and investing in skills and innovation.

They will also give us a platform to expose David Cameron's hollow rhetoric on key issues like the environment and women's rights. We can do that by calling the Tories to account on their negative voting record and general behaviour in the European Parliament.

As you prepare for these forthcoming debates, members of the EPLP would be more than happy to supply you with any detailed information you think you may need. We would also be ready, willing and able to meet with you, if you think that might be helpful. Please don't hesitate to get in touch.

We look forward to hearing from you.

With best wishes

Gary Titley MEP  
Leader  
European Parliamentary Labour Party