

## Prospective MEPs 2014

Your chance to tell us where you stand

The Vegan Society is the first and oldest vegan organisation in the world, representing tens of thousands of EU voters. Our supporters are very interested to hear your views and your party's policies in the following issues.

1. **Human rights:** The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, Article 10 'Freedom of thought, conscience and religion' gives the right to manifest our vegan philosophical beliefs, in teaching and practice, and Article 21 'Non-discrimination' prohibits discrimination against vegans.  
**How do your party's policies develop practical protection of these rights** - including vegans in institutional settings e.g. children in schools, patients in hospitals, people in justice systems, workers and others?
2. **Plant-centred diets** - at least seven portions of vegetables and fruit daily - have great public health impact, cutting premature death by over 40% (Oyebode et. al 2014). **What are your party's policies on :**
  - a. **Promoting plant-centred diets for public health?**
  - b. Monitoring and reporting on the public health effectiveness of Member State plant-centred nutrition strategies compared to EU and world best practice?
  - c. Research and support for the transition to sustainable plant-based protein production and human consumption, away from animal protein?
3. **Climate change and Stock-free farming** Moving away from animal farming - to food, fuel and other crops for direct human use - can significantly cut EU greenhouse gas emissions. **What are your party's policies on supporting EU farmers who wish to move toward horticulture, arable farming, agro-forestry and other crop farming, away from the 'livestock' industry?**
4. **Food security:** **What are your party's policies on reaping the potential of accessible and nutritious plant-based food to ensure food security for European and global citizens?**
5. **Non-human animals in testing, science and education** Research on non-human animals frequently fails to predict the actual effects on humans. **What are your party's policies to improve the quality of testing,**

science and education by replacing the use of non-human animals with the wide range of proven effective alternatives?

6. **Non-human animals in entertainment** Animals suffer needlessly even in so-called 'good' zoos, circuses, race-tracks and other entertainment venues. **What are your party's policies to end the use of non-human animals in entertainment?**
7. **Common Agricultural Policy**
  - a. How can Pillar 1 Basic Payments be used to reward environmentally sustainable practices which also benefit non-human animals?
  - b. How can Pillar 1 Green Direct Payments be used to support farmers who wish to move away from unsustainable 'livestock' farming?
  - c. How can Pillar 1 Payments be used to move away from imported non-EU animal feed, to significantly reduce GHG emissions?
  - d. **Pillars 1 & 2** An estimated over €129.6 million in EU subsidies has been used to support bull cattle 'fiestas' and the 'Toros' industry in Spain (<http://www.greens-efa.eu/fileadmin/dam/Documents/Studies/2013-5%20Bullfighting%20subsidies%20report.pdf>). **What steps will your party take to end this support?**
  - e. **Pillar 2: Rural Development.** For each such programme, 30% of the budget is reserved for voluntary measures beneficial to the environment. **How can Pillar 2 Rural Development Payments be used to help farmers who wish to move away from the 'livestock' industry?**
8. **What are your party's policies on neonicotinoids and restoring EU bee populations?**
9. **Common Fisheries Policy: What are your party's policies on protecting both endangered and other fish in European waters?**
10. **If elected as an MEP for 2014-2019, which key policy issues do you intend to address related to:**
  - a. Reducing the use of non-human animals for human purposes?
  - b. Increasing environmental sustainable plant agriculture?
  - c. Using crop farming to increase global human food security?

Thank you for taking the time to share your views and your party's policies with our supporters. Finally, if you'd like to share, **would you describe yourself as:**

1. **Vegan**
2. **Other, please describe:**