

## European Elections 2019

The upcoming European Elections will be taking place on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May giving all EU citizens the opportunity to decide who will represent them in the EU Parliament, impacting the lives of many in the EU and globally.

As thousands of candidates will be standing for election, we've compiled questions you can ask of candidates to clarify their stance on key issues. You can find your local candidates at [whocanivotefor.co.uk](http://whocanivotefor.co.uk)

- 1.) Definition of veganism:** Evidence shows that the number of EU citizens identifying as vegan is rising at a rapid rate, with the market of vegan products developing accordingly to meet the rise in demand. And yet, consumers are still faced with unclear labelling, with no protection against misleading and inconsistent descriptions from suppliers. Whilst the EU has been mandated to secure a legal definition, a lack of a deadline has placed this issue on the backburner. The Vegan Society have worked alongside other European organisations – including SAFE - to define a minimum standard for products labelled 'suitable for vegans' for European legislation<sup>1</sup>.

***“With the number of vegans rising rapidly across Europe, a legal definition of veganism is imperative to ensure reliable labelling. Will you and your party consult with The Vegan Society and endorse the minimum standards for the term ‘suitable for vegans’, presented in the [SAFE paper](#)?”***

- 2.) Common Agricultural Policy:** Substantial scientific evidence indicates a plant-based diet as being beneficial for both the environment and public health, by substantially cutting the EU's greenhouse gas emissions and having a positive impact on the wellbeing of citizens. As a well planned vegan diet contains all the nutrients required to remain healthy, it is therefore in the best interest of EU citizens, to have an agricultural policy that actively promotes this.

***“To secure a thriving future for people and the planet, evidence suggests the need to move towards a more plant-based system. What will you and your party do to encourage a shift in the EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) in favour of promoting a more nutritious and sustainable diet?”***

- 3.) Restriction on 'meat' terms:** The EU Agricultural Committee (AGRI) have proposed a ban on commonly used meat terms such as 'burger', 'steak' and 'sausage' for alternative-meat products, undermining the continuing success of the meat-substitute market, whilst having a disproportionate and detrimental effect on vegans living under the protection of EU's fundamental rights. Implementation of this proposal would also discourage those wishing to make the transition to more sustainable food sources and have a notable impact on small vegan businesses.

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.vegansociety.com/sites/default/files/uploads/downloads/Safe%20document.pdf>

***“A recent EU AGRI committee has proposed banning the use of words like ‘sausage’, ‘burger’ and ‘steak’ for plant-based food items. This goes against several of the EU’s fundamental rights and will unfairly impact upon vegans and plant-based businesses. Will you and your party reject the amendment to ban the use of commonly used food terms to describe plant-based food items?”***

Candidate emails can be found on [whocanivotefor](https://www.whocanivotefor.com), or you can meet candidates and question them at local hustings (where citizens can ask questions of candidates in a panel-type event in the community). Please let us know of any responses you get to your questions by emailing [campaigns@vegansociety.com](mailto:campaigns@vegansociety.com), as we will continue to engage with them following the election.