

SDLP Goals:

- Protection of local agricultural interests in CAP reform.
- Negotiating reasonable compliance measures in the implementation of the Farm Waste Management Strategy (encompassing the Nitrates Directive).
- Development of export opportunities for NI farmers in the larger EU
- Removal of live export ban & removal of over-30-month scheme.
- Lifelong learning for farmers and rural community.
- Development of a realistic scheme acceptable to the agricultural industry, for the collection and disposal of fallen animals.
- Promoting sustainable employment for trawler men and shore fishermen.
- Additional EU funding for the planned Fishing Villages Development Scheme.
- Promotion and international marketing of local produce on all-Ireland basis to avail of positive attitude to 'Irish' produce in Europe and beyond.



Education, research and culture

The future of our society depends on maximising the potential of all our citizens. As has been dramatically demonstrated in the South, a well-educated and highly skilled workforce is crucial for economic growth both through indigenous enterprise and inward investment. This can only be achieved through ongoing investment in a high-class system of education and training suited to the needs of individuals and of society. Under devolution, the SDLP demonstrated its commitment to these principles, re-introducing grants, reducing the numbers liable to pay fees and opposing the eleven-plus and promoting lifelong learning.

The EU has long recognised that it has a role in raising educational and skills levels across Europe. Investment in people is becoming an increasingly important

aspect of EU economic and employment policy as the EU seeks to become the world's most advanced economy. This reality underpins the drive to develop the 'Social Europe', of which the SDLP is a keen advocate.

The European Social Fund supports vocational training, the SOCRATES programme supports schools and higher education, while the Research Framework Programme supports research and innovation.

Investing in skills

In the forthcoming negotiations on future regional and budgetary policy, the SDLP will seek to maximise European Social Fund support for the educational and training needs of our region. We will support the continuation of SOCRATES after 2006.

The SDLP also believes that our research institutions and industries should play a more active role in the European Research Programme. We will work in Europe to remove the barriers to participation in cross-border and transnational research projects.

The SDLP wants to increase the ERASMUS budget to permit more students to study abroad and to provide better support to students and their host institutions. At the same time, the DA VINCI programme should be expanded to give all those pursuing a vocational qualification the chance to undertake part of their studies and training in another EU country.

Cherishing Cultural Diversity

Education is also important for the preservation of cultural diversity in Northern Ireland. A thriving cultural, media and arts sector is an important part of the quality of life in any region. It is also a sign of success. Culture also makes a major contribution to economic life and is a significant source of employment in the advanced regions of the EU.

Capital cities in these islands, such as Dublin, Edinburgh and Cardiff all have a strong cultural dimension. The SDLP believes that more active involvement in EU cultural initiatives would greatly encourage the development of our cultural life. The SDLP will therefore campaign for the designation of Belfast as a European City of Culture during the coming years.

For too long cultural diversity in Ireland has been a source of conflict. It is in fact an opportunity. The EU has long supported cultural and linguistic diversity both in Ireland and across Europe. With



the recent enlargement, the EU is even more diverse. The SDLP has the best record in promoting cultural diversity – the European Bureau of Lesser-Used Languages was established as a consequence of a motion tabled by John Hume. In the next Parliament, we will seek to expand EU support programmes for cultural and linguistic diversity and to secure more funding for Irish language projects. The SDLP will also seek to improve the status of Irish within the EU institutions as they evolve to accommodate the ten new languages of the new member states.

SDLP Goals:

- Maximise support for training from the ESF.
- Ensure the continuation of SOCRATES after 2006.
- Encourage and facilitate involvement by research institutions and industry in the European Research Area.
- Increase investment in the ERASMUS and DA VINCI programmes to enable more higher and further education students to participate in study abroad.
- Secure the nomination of Belfast as a European City of Culture.
- Promote support for cultural diversity and the Irish language.
- Secure official status for the Irish language in the EU.

"We need to invest more in our greatest asset - our people."

Human rights and equality

The SDLP came into being to pursue the cause of equal rights for all. That remains our purpose, in Ireland and in Europe.

We have been strong supporters of the EU because of its track record in promoting equality and human rights for all Europeans – the first aspect of the 'Social Europe' to be developed.

Recognising Rights

As the members of the European Union co-operate in an increasing range of policies affecting human rights and equality, it is vitally important that the EU upholds the rights of its citizens. The SDLP and its sister parties will work to ensure that the new European Constitution contains strong safeguards for human rights.

The SDLP therefore believes that the European Charter of Fundamental Human Rights must be incorporated into the new European Constitution. Any discrimination based on sex, race, ethnic or social origin, genetic features, language, religion or belief, political or any other opinion, membership of a national minority, property, birth, disability, age, sexual orientation, marital or family status, must be outlawed everywhere in Europe.

The SDLP also believes that the future European Constitution can therefore also play an important role in underpinning the Good Friday Agreement, its institutions and its processes of reform.

Realising Equality

It is also essential to continue and develop EU equal opportunity policies. A great deal has been achieved. The EU has adopted legislation on equal pay, parental

leave, equal treatment in social security, and the burden of proof in discrimination cases, and on access to employment, promotion and training. It is currently developing an EU Gender Mainstreaming Strategy so that all EU policies will be assessed for the impact on equality.

In the lifetime of the next European Parliament the SDLP will seek to build on the progress already made. Legislation must be implemented and strengthened where necessary. This will be particularly important in equal treatment in access to work and social security. The SDLP is also particularly concerned that the EQUAL programme becomes part of the mainstream of European structural policies when a new system comes into

force in 2007. The SDLP will further play its part in formulating and adopting the new framework programme for equal opportunities after 2005.

We further support the special years of action on equality and social themes, such as last year's EU Year of People with a Disability. We believe that agreeing a theme for the year offers excellent opportunities to raise the profile of an issue and lay a foundation for ongoing work. Each theme should be associated with a significant budget line and substantial policy outcomes. Under devolution, the SDLP led on the equality agenda, establishing the Children's Commissioner post and laying the foundation for the Single Equality Bill.



During 2003, Party Leader Mark Durkan took the opportunity to restate and highlight party policy that, rather than being a health matter, disability is an issue of fundamental human rights, every person with a disability being first and foremost a human being. He further urged direct rule Ministers to create a 'legacy fund' to continue the good work undertaken during the year.

Challenging rights abuse

The PES Group in the European Parliament has recently made major progress in the

The SDLP fully supports this work and we appreciate European support for our work of peace-building in the North. The SDLP will raise awareness in Europe of the human rights situation in the North and will, in particular, seek European support for a full public judicial inquiry into the murder of Pat Finucane.

One set of aspirations we completely reject. The thugs burning people out of their houses and the theoreticians trying to make fascism respectable are equally dangerous. We must make sure that they

SDLP Goals:

- Incorporation of EU Charter of Fundamental Rights into new European Constitution.
- Mainstreaming EQUAL programme into structural funds.
- Development of effective new framework programme on equality.
- Increased funding to tackle domestic violence.
- More effective EU measures to counter trafficking of women and children.
- Raising awareness in Europe of human rights issues in the North, including the need for a full public judicial inquiry into murder of Pat Finucane.

"Our core purpose is to pursue the cause of equal rights for all."

fight against domestic violence by doubling the EU budget allocated to this policy area. We will continue to advocate better funding for such measures and to press for more effective European Union involvement in the fight against the trafficking of women and children.

The EU has succeeded in overcoming the historic divisions and conflicts of Europe because of its inclusiveness and respect for diversity. That is why the EU, and all pro-European parties of all political shades, have campaigned so vigorously for equality and respect for all, and against racism, sectarianism and prejudice.

do not take over our communities and schools. The SDLP and its sister parties are fully committed to preventing these people from destroying democracy and leading Europe back onto the path of conflict and violence.

We will strive for an Ireland and a Europe of peace, freedom, human rights and equal opportunities for all.

Policing

Organised crime, the drugs trade and smuggling are conducted on an international basis. A European-wide strategy is necessary. The SDLP will build on the work carried out in recent years to develop EU anti-terrorist, anti-smuggling and anti-organised crime policies so that the agencies in both parts of Ireland can work effectively with their counterparts in Europe. We will also press for a fully developed European approach to seizing criminal assets, building on the success of the Criminal Assets Bureau in the South.

"I want to see co-operation in Europe to defend communities from organised crime, drug-dealers, weapons smugglers"

The European agencies such as Europol and Eurojust must be made both more effective and more accountable to democratic control.

Locally, the SDLP is determined to combat crime and ensure safer communities for everybody. We believe that this can best be done through creating the representative, accountable police service working with all the community, that Patten recommended. That is why the SDLP - alone among the parties in the North - has stood for Patten and participated in the new policing institutions to deliver it. We are pleased that the independent Oversight

Commissioner, Al Hutchinson, has reported that "excellent progress" is being made in this the third year of Patten's ten-year programme of change. We will continue our work on the Policing Board to ensure that Patten is fully implemented and are confident of success.

The link between organised crime and the paramilitaries is very clear. They are defying the democratic will of the people of Ireland and severely damaging our

society. Their racketeering is stunting the development of communities. Their involvement in drug-dealing is cutting young lives short and terrorising older people.

The time has also come for all paramilitary organisations, loyalist and republican, to end all their activity, including criminality. All democratic parties should also play their part in creating acceptable and accountable policing. The Good Friday Agreement provides the framework in which everyone can pursue their political aspirations through exclusively peaceful and democratic means. Those who

continue paramilitary and criminal activity must face prosecution and asset seizure.

We cannot simply accept the benefits of Europe without taking on our responsibilities. The SDLP's experience in reforming the police and law enforcement, and creating accountability in Northern Ireland will be of great value as the European Union addresses the challenges of organised crime, drugs, smuggling, and dealing with the terrorism that has had such deadly effects in Madrid and elsewhere.



SDLP Goals:

- Development of EU-wide strategy on organised crime and seizure of criminal assets.
- Increased effectiveness and democratic accountability of Europol and Eurojust

Europe in the world

The SDLP wants to see the EU grow as a force for peace and social justice in the world. We do not see the EU as purely an economic partnership but as the greatest example of conflict resolution in history and the greatest opportunity for international development in the future. We do not believe simply in a Europe of economies, but in a Europe of values and a Europe of influence - a real challenge to poverty, disease and war.

Promoting international development

EU policies affect the lives, not just of European citizens, but of billions of people around the globe. The decisions we take on trade and development can be a matter of life and death for the poorer communities of the world.

Building up the economies of developing countries is not just a moral imperative - it is in all our interests, as the European example has clearly proven, lifting all the economies of the member states.

The SDLP therefore supports the debt relief campaign and its efforts to bring home to the citizens of developed countries the effects of the failed policies of recent decades. We will work with our Socialist colleagues to increase EU support, aid and fair trade for developing countries.

The SDLP also calls on the EU and the US to work with the lesser-developed group of countries co-ordinated by India and Brazil to make the World Trade

Organisation operate in a fairer manner. To survive, the WTO must ensure that it works in the interests of all its members and their citizens.

The SDLP and its sister parties are also pressing world financial institutions, such as the IMF and the World Bank, to review their policies in the light of the experience of recent years. Where failure has occurred, it should be recognised and addressed. New or unorthodox approaches that have worked in practice must also be recognised.

Closer to home, the new Europe of 25 members faces major challenges in the next few years. We have to integrate fully the new members into the European Union. And as our former neighbours now become members, we have new members on our borders.

In particular, the European Union has to deal with the consequences of the disintegration of Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union.

The SDLP and the PES strongly supports EU efforts to reconstruct Croatia, Serbia-Montenegro, Bosnia, Macedonia, and Albania. We also back the EU's strategy of reconstruction and reconciliation in Kosovo. We believe that the countries and regions of the western Balkans must also begin to co-operate with one another, and to eventually prepare themselves for EU membership in future decades.

The EU must also develop a new relationship with Russia and the other states of the former USSR and with all the nations bordering the Mediterranean. The EU must assist these countries in



developing peace, freedom and prosperity. Poverty and conflict in those areas is as dangerous to us as it is to the peoples of the former USSR and the Mediterranean.

It is also likely that the future of Turkey's application for membership will be decided during the lifetime of the next European Parliament. If Turkey fulfils the political and economic criteria for

inspired, not by the possibility of 60,000 soldiers in EU uniform, but by the sight of hundreds of millions of citizens living side by side in peace and freedom. However, to be effective in supporting peace, there is a clear need for the EU to have a more coherent foreign policy capacity. This should not extend to supplanting the independent foreign affairs policy of member countries (any more than EU international development

UN play the lead role in securing peace and democracy in Iraq, however the trans-Atlantic dimension is crucial. A positive and progressive agenda of change in the world requires a strong EU to negotiate common-sense strategies with the US, based on exclusively peaceful and political means, on international development, international trade & debt relief. The SDLP and its sister parties in the PES are resolutely engaged with progressive interests in the US - particularly the US Democrats - to this end.

The best security policy for the EU is to support other initiatives that seek to emulate its achievements. The EU must step up the support it has given to the creation of the African Union.

We want to see the EU play a stronger role in securing peace and protecting human rights in the Middle East, securing a peaceful, two-state solution with Israel withdrawing to the borders approved by the UN. The SDLP also looks forward to the day when the vision of a Middle Eastern Union, including Israel and Palestine, will become a reality.

A key part of the EU drive to support peace must be in the development of conflict prevention and conflict resolution capacity. Our aim must be to prevent the recourse to force. The EU is developing a conflict prevention strategy but its scope, ambition and resources must be built up. Some successes have been visible in ending wars in Central America, assisting in de-escalating the tensions between India and Pakistan, and in supporting the peace process in Sri Lanka. It will be in the interests of

"The SDLP wants to see the EU grow as a force for peace and social justice - a real challenge to poverty, disease and war."

membership of the EU; its application should be supported. Such a decision cannot be made on the basis of religious discrimination.

Supporting Peace & Democracy

As stated, the EU stands as a powerful example of conflict resolution in the world. We therefore oppose any attempted militarization of the European Union. The EU is unique because it depends solely on the rule of law, and has no armed forces. Its power comes, not from the barrel of a gun, but from its proven capacity to provide peace and prosperity. Its strength lies in its example, its diplomacy, its development policy and its trade policy, not in its military resources. The rest of the world is

programmes discharge national obligations on foreign aid). However, it must enable the EU to increase its leverage in a global situation where the voice of peace can barely be heard above the din of war.

Given the widespread opposition of the European public to the Iraq war, it is worth asking what alternative outcomes might have been possible had the EU benefited from a well-developed foreign policy position and been able to exert greater influence to counter the White House-led approach.

The SDLP has consistently voted against the Iraq war in Westminster and in the European Parliament. We want to see the

everyone if the EU becomes as successful in preventing conflicts as it is in reconstructing ruined societies. As part of this strategy, the SDLP believes the EU should appoint an EU Commissioner for Peace and Conflict Resolution.

When all else fails, the United Nations has authorised peacekeeping missions. Many Irishmen and Irishwomen, from North and South, have served in the Irish Defence Forces and kept the peace on behalf of the United Nations. From Lebanon to East Timor, millions of people have reason to be thankful for Irish peacekeepers.

These peacekeepers have always operated under the terms of the Irish Constitution and the UN Charter. For this reason, we are not prepared to take lessons from the shareholders, managers and employees of private armies on the future EU strategy for peace.

It is obvious that future participation in UN missions require a degree of co-operation between EU Defence Forces. It is important that such co-operation is organised so as to preclude the development of a European Army. Each member state must continue to make free and independent decisions about participation in specific UN operations. The European Parliament must also exercise effective scrutiny over EU structures of security co-operation, and control over the EU component of the financing of peacekeeping operations. No EU involvement should occur without the consent of a majority in the European Parliament.

The SDLP remains committed to the removal of nuclear weapons from all

parts of Europe, and to their ultimate universal abolition. A clear separation between the EU and NATO must be maintained. The EU must not become the European political wing of NATO.

SDLP Goals

- Increased EU support, aid and fair trade to developing countries.
- Increased EU co-operation on international affairs and promotion of common strategies between US and EU on international issues, based exclusively on peaceful means, including debt relief and fair trade.
- Reform of structures of WTO and policies of IMF and World Bank.
- Development of effective EU conflict prevention strategy.
- Development of relationships with new border-states, supporting peace, democracy and prosperity.
- Enhanced EU co-operative peace-keeping under the mandate of the UN and without creation of EU Army.
- Appointment of an EU Commissioner for Peace and Conflict Resolution.
- Removal of nuclear weapons from Europe and, ultimately, their universal abolition.



A strategy for the 21st Century



The SDLP vision of the new Ireland mirrors the principles of the new Europe: partnership, diversity and human rights.

In the 20th century, the SDLP was the only party with the vision to identify the potential of the European Union for Northern Ireland.

That vision has been amply justified by our achievements in Europe.
The SDLP is the party of delivery, not the party of empty promises, nor of threats.

Now in the new Europe of the 21st century, we are still the party of vision. We are still the only Northern party with the influence in Europe to deliver.

We are committed to building the new Ireland in the new Europe. On June 10th, we are asking for a renewal of that mandate. We do so to ensure that Northern Ireland will be represented by a forward-looking party with a track record of achievement in Europe. We do so to ensure that this region will be represented by a party and a candidate that will guarantee that Northern Ireland's voice is heard, and, more importantly, listened to, at all levels of the European Union.

Best Agenda - Morgan's top 6 for Europe



- Secure extension of PEACE funding for community and voluntary groups
- Promote the Euro and maximise opportunities of enlargement to support business development and job-creation
- Protect local farmers' interests in CAP reform
- Continue the drive for equality, addressing income gaps and delivering better services
- Protect the environment - build on John Hume's 100% voting record on green issues
- Increase EU support, aid and fair-trade for developing countries



Morgan means more for all of us

Published by Yvonne Byrne, Election Agent,
121 Ormeau Road, Belfast BT7 1SH SDLP.

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For further information contact
SDLP headquarters:

121 Ormeau Road, Belfast BT7 1SH.
Telephone: +44 (0)28 9024 7700
Email: sdlp@indigo.ie
Website: www.sdlp.ie

