

making tracks



Photo: Shutterstock © Kerp



Over the last six months Jean and Keith have continued to work on a number of animal welfare issues including the UK badger cull, bullfighting in Spain and the EU Dairy Directive. They have also worked on ending live animal exports, protecting animals used in tourism and championing animal welfare in the EU's agriculture policies. Your Green MEPs will continue to fight for greater protection and improved conditions for animals across the world.

Animal rights from Jean Lambert and Keith Taylor, Green Party MEPs for London and the South East

BULLFIGHTING: ENDING EU FUNDING

Keith and Jean have been working in the European Parliament to end EU funding for bullfighting.

Both MEPs have been focussing on the issue after it was revealed that payments of up to £110 million are given to farmers who rear bulls for fighting in Spain. A report published by Spanish Greens in the summer concluded, 'without such backing [bullfighting] would probably be on the brink of financial collapse'.

In response to the report Jean and Keith started a petition demanding the EU stops funding bullfighting. The petition has almost 20,000 signatures and will be handed in to the European

Commission later in the year.

Keith said: "Bullfighting is barbaric and cruel and, without the prop of EU farming subsidies, it's a failing business. The EU must withdraw funding from bullfighting immediately."

Jean added: "As many Europeans are wondering where they're going to get their next meal from, farmers should be producing food, not cruelty. The funding of bullfighting has to stop. We need the support of people across Europe to end subsidies for bullfighting and help make the EU a bullfight free zone."

To sign the bullfighting petition visit <http://stopebullfightfunding.org.uk/>



Green MEP wins top animal welfare award



Swedish Green MEP Carl Schlyter (pictured here with Keith and Jean) has been named 'MEP for Animal Welfare 2013'.

Mr Schlyter was chosen by more than 400 MEPs to win the International Fund for Animal Welfare sponsored award for his work on the EU ban on importing seal products.

Jean said: "The Greens/EFA are the fourth largest political group in the EU, and this award reminds us how Green representatives from across Europe are fighting for animal rights day in, day out."

Keith added: "This award is well-deserved. It's great to see a fellow Green MEP being recognised for his work promoting animal welfare."

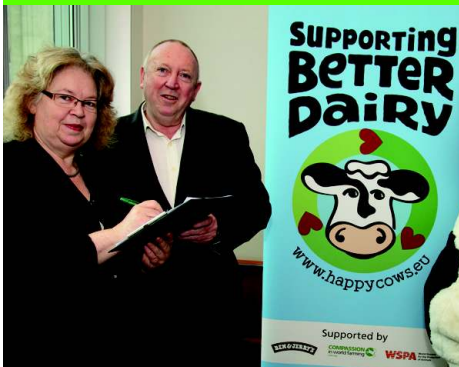


The Greens | European Free Alliance
in the European Parliament

Autumn/Winter
2013

Green Party

CALLING FOR NEW RULES TO PROTECT DAIRY COWS



Jean and Keith sign the petition setting out minimum shelter and welfare standards.

Jean and Keith are spearheading parliamentary calls for a new EU Directive designed to improve the welfare standards on Europe's dairy industry.

There are some 23 million dairy cows in the EU and, with variable welfare rules in place across the EU, standards vary greatly.

Compassion in World Farming and the **World Society for the Protection of Animals** have teamed up with organisations to draw up a new dairy cows draft directive setting out minimum shelter and welfare standards. The draft directive can be viewed at www.happycows.eu – alongside a petition calling for MEPs to adopt it. Currently it boasts over 200,000 signatures.

Jean said: "I am delighted the Greens are promoting this initiative. It will raise standards in the EU's dairy industry everywhere and stamp out unnecessary suffering to cows by making farmers responsible for ensuring they have adequate water, shelter and food and are kept free from disease."

Protect animals involved in tourism

Keith spoke in the European Parliament at the launch of the **Global Welfare Guidance for Animals in Tourism**. The guidelines have been developed by tourism group ABTA and aim to tackle cruelty by improving

welfare standards for animals across the world.

Common practices targeted by the Global Welfare Guidance include activities that have the potential to impose severe, negative impacts on the welfare of wild animals in captivity. Examples include:

- the use of wild animals as props in souvenir photographs, (where lions, tigers, birds and reptiles are drugged, manipulated and occasionally have claws or teeth removed to reduce human safety risks);
- animal performances based on unnatural behaviours and animal shows where training methods compromise welfare; bullfighting, cockfighting and bear baiting.

Keith said: "These new guidelines, supported by the travel industry and NGOs alike, could make a huge difference to the lives of animals across the world. There's no excuse for animal cruelty to play any part in anyone's holiday."

Keeping farm animals out of the US-EU trade deal



Welfare standards on European farms must not be weakened under the terms of any trade deal between the EU and the US, Jean has insisted.

During a parliamentary debate on a proposed bilateral trade agreement between the world's two largest trading 'blocs', Green MEPs argued that agriculture should be left out of the negotiations entirely, to enable the EU to continue setting its own rules based on animal welfare rather than a race to the bottom on food prices.

Jean said: "The further globali-

sation of our food supply would be bad news for farm animals in the EU. Greens are always working hard to ensure that farm animals in the EU enjoy some of the best conditions in the world and, although there is always work to be done, the regulatory framework here in the EU does allow us put animal welfare first.

"It is imperative that agriculture is kept out of any future free trade deal with the US – or anywhere else – so we can continue to set our own rules on animal welfare in a way which puts the interests of animals above those of markets."

Badger cull 'inhumane and unscientific'

GREEN MEPs Keith and Jean have condemned the likely killing of some 5000 badgers in Somerset and Gloucestershire as an 'inhumane and unscientific folly' that is bound to fail.

They said the cull was motivated by farmers' desires to maintain access to world markets for British beef and dairy products – and would do nothing to stamp out bovine TB.

Jean said: "This misguided cull has everything to do with exports to an increasingly globalised food system – and precious little to do with eradicating TB from cattle. The Government and the NFU have ignored the scientific experts, who have called for livestock vaccination – and thousands of badgers will pay the price with their lives."

Keith added: "For many, the badger is a symbol of Britain's biodiversity and it is appalling that it is being sacrificed by the policies of a Government that cares nothing for animals but everything for short-term profits."

