



Why you should vote for Vänsterpartiet in the EU election

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Your vote matters!

If you're tired of right-wing politics and want Sweden and the world to move towards more fair and equal rights, then use your vote in the EP elections to help make change.

The EU affects your life every day. From the size of your electricity bill, to how long your work day can be, to whether the train comes on time. It's all affected by laws and guidelines from the EU.

It is possible to adapt our society to stop the climate crisis. It is possible to lower the prices of food and electricity. It is possible to improve welfare, build good housing and create safe jobs. We can build a more equal world, fight against wars and conflicts and strengthen democracy and human rights.

But to do so, we must change the direction of politics. Away from the right's blind faith that the market will solve everything, to the idea that politicians must take responsibility for creating prosperity and welfare that benefits everyone.

Your vote in the EP elections plays a big part in how Sweden and the world will develop in the coming years. Use it!

A strong welfare state – a functioning society

A welfare state is the surest way to create a society that works. In a welfare state, a good school for all children is an investment in a better future. A society where health-care is provided according to need, not according to wealth, creates security and trust between people. Only a welfare state can make sure that there are good homes and public transport in the whole country.

The political right's core idea is that the market should run society instead. That those who can afford to, should be able to buy priority access to healthcare, schools should be sold to privately owned companies and different rail companies should compete for customers on the same tracks.

It is obvious that this model has harmed our country. Things that should work in a modern society are falling apart: the trains are not running on time, pharmacies are running out of medicines, the roads are full of holes. More and more pupils are leaving school without the knowledge

they need. People who have worked their entire lives can't live on their pensions.

This type of right-wing politics has also dominated in the EU for a long time. The member states have been forced to accept privatisations and deregulations. In the countries that have implemented the euro as their currency, it is difficult to pursue welfare policies and even out economic inequalities.

We stand up for Sweden's right to define its own policies. We say no to expanding the EU's power over our economy and welfare, and we do not think Sweden should implement the euro as our currency. It is high time to leave market fundamentalism behind us and begin building a society based on caring for one another and taking responsibility.



The climate is the responsibility of politicians

If we humans are to live in safety and prosperity in the future, we must slow down climate change now. This is a gigantic project, which cannot be left to the market or dumped on individual people. The climate transition is a political responsibility.

But in Sweden and the EU, the political right is in charge, and they neither want to, nor can save the climate. Their model – leaving all decisions to the market – means that it is taking too long to resolve climate problems, because oil companies, the automobile industry and other industries don't want to lose the money they've invested.

When the market is allowed to control everything, everyday people are punished every time they choose environmental alternatives. For example, it is almost always more expensive and complicated to take the train than to fly.

The climate crisis is global, and international agreements are necessary if we are to solve it. It is good that the EU

sets up minimum regulations and targets to reduce emissions. But the EU also sets up obstacles to effective climate policies.

The Left Party wants to implement a massive climate investment programme in Sweden. We must transform industry, expand the railway and make our homes more energy efficient. We must expand our electricity production and reduce the prices of clean energy so we can phase out fossil fuels.

The EU's requirements for deregulation and competition in fields such as public transport and the housing market are currently preventing many of these important climate investments. The electricity trading system leads to excessive prices for fossil-free electricity. Because states have limited freedom to invest in green businesses, they are less able to transition their industries.

The EU needs to do more for the climate and tear down all obstacles for an effective climate policy. We can manage the climate crisis with different politics.

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We are always on the side of employees

Everyone who works in Sweden should be guaranteed good pay, good working conditions and a safe working environment. No one should be discriminated against or excepted from the rights that are guaranteed by laws and collective bargaining agreements.

The Swedish model with collective bargaining agreements and elected safety representatives at workplaces is the very foundation of safety and employee influence at work. It is a model that has made worker wages higher in Sweden than in most other comparable countries for a long time.

But politicians on the right, both in Sweden and in the EU, have been attacking union rights in various ways for many years. This has led to reduced security on the Swedish labour market.

Free mobility for companies within the EU has weakened the ability of labour unions to demand collective

bargaining agreements and reasonable health and safety requirements. Understaffing and stress create heavy workloads, leading to a greater risk of injuries and accidents. Companies seeking fast profits, with new kinds of employment that aren't secure and criminal employers, have created a frightening labour market where laws and regulations are no longer followed.

The Left Party has always been on the side of employees. We have resisted every law proposal that weakens unions' rights, and we have actively pursued better health-and-safety and job-security regulations. And we will continue to do so with the same energy as always.



Fighting international crime

Fighting crime is a central task of every democratic society. A lot of organised crime is international, so crime-fighting must also work across borders. Drug smuggling, human trafficking and money laundering can only be combated effectively through international collaboration between police and customs.

One of the biggest sources of income for criminal gangs is financial fraud. Money is often transferred abroad to be laundered to hide the money trail. The victims are elderly people who are cheated out of their savings, businesses and government agencies that receive fake invoices, or families that book holiday accommodation that doesn't exist.

The Left Party wants to strengthen EU collaboration against fraud by giving more resources and staff to Europol and by tightening the demands on those who provide goods and services online.

Every year, Sweden loses about SEK 45 billion due to tax evasion. That's money that should have gone to

schools, hospitals, crime fighting and other necessary elements for a functional society, but which is hidden in tax havens instead.

The EU's work to prevent tax evasion must be improved. We want to see tougher regulations for tax havens and more openness and collaboration between EU countries regarding tax information. Rich people with no conscience must not be able to shirk their responsibility to contribute to society.



Defending our democracy

The rights to freely express your opinion, organise and influence how society is run are the foundation of a healthy democracy. All people must have the right to shape their own lives and participate in society without discrimination or reprisals.

Today, democracy is threatened by extreme right-wing forces that are attacking free journalism, science, political opponents and everything else they think is in their way. They are spreading racism and attacking feminists and LGBTQ people to create division and fear.

To counteract these forces, we need a strong left in the European Parliament. We will stand against these attacks on democratic and human rights. We want to see more openness and insight into how political decisions are made in the EU, and we want to put more pressure on countries that are limiting democratic and human rights.

We will fight racism and xenophobia. We will fight for women's right to control their own bodies, for equal pay and for freedom from violence and assault. We will work

for the rights of LGBTQ people to have families and live in safety.

Democracy must be strengthened, not weakened. A healthy democracy is the key to a more just and equal society, where all people can feel safe and free.



Peace and international law

The overall goal of all foreign policy and security policy must be to create the necessary conditions for peace and freedom. International law must form the basis of how Sweden and the EU act in connection with war and conflicts.

It has now been two years since Russia invaded Ukraine in violation of international law. The Left Party has condemned Russia's war of aggression from the beginning, and we support the humanitarian and military support that Ukraine has received from Sweden and the EU to defend itself against the attack.

That support must continue as long as necessary, also after the war is over. The Left Party takes the view that Ukraine should be admitted into the EU, and that the EU should support the rebuilding of a free Ukraine. We also believe that Ukraine's debts should be waived so they can recover and build up what was destroyed by the war.

After decades of occupation and violence, the situation of the Palestinians is worse than ever. Israel has killed tens of thousands of civilians in Gaza, many of whom are

children. The devastation and deprivation are beyond comprehension. The attack by Hamas on October the 7 was an atrocity, but it does not justify this violence against the Palestinian people.

The occupation of Palestinian territories must end and all illegal settlements must be dismantled. The EU must work for a peace process so that both Palestinians and Israelis can live in freedom and security.

We condemn all attacks on civilians and demand that the EU does the same in order to work with credibility for peace and international law. The Left Party is the only Swedish party that has consistently voted in the EU for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza.



War, conflict and oppression are the primary reasons people are forced to flee from their home countries. For many years, the EU has invested significant resources in trying to stop people on the run, before they even reach the borders of the EU. Tragedies are occurring all year round on the Mediterranean as people drown in tiny, un-seaworthy boats.

We argue that instead of closing its borders, the EU should agree to work together to protect refugees and create legal paths into the EU.

At the same time, the EU must do much more to prevent war and oppression. The EU's trade policy must become fair in its dealings with poor countries. Old debts must be forgiven, so that countries in debt can have a chance to build up their societies and their economies.

And not least, the support for building up democracy must be strengthened. The path to a peaceful world goes through justice, democracy and equality.



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