



## Europe

*Globalisation has an increasing impact on our lives. Much of it is positive, but there are also big challenges in this rapidly changing world. Criminal gangs are taking advantage of new technology and freedom of movement, our natural environment is in danger and failed states threaten stability across the globe. Only close international co-operation can hope to deal with these threats. Liberal Democrats believe European cooperation is the best way for Britain to be strong and safe in this changing world. But we need to change the way we do it: putting Britain front and centre in the European Union will get us more influence than if we remain lukewarm, like we have been, or withdraw to the fringes as the Conservatives want. Liberal Democrats will stand up for the crime-fighting measures that keep Britain safe and ensure Europe works together on defence and security matters. But we will also keep up pressure on the EU to improve – reforming wasteful agricultural subsidies and scrapping the expensive second Parliament in Strasbourg.*

**Keep Britain safe – keep Britain part of international crime-fighting.** The rise of cross-border crime means we need to work with our partners to tackle fraud, drugs and paedophile networks. We must not expose Britain to attack from criminal gangs. Liberal Democrats will keep Britain at the heart of international crime-fighting measures such as the European Arrest Warrant and the European Police Office (Europol) that the Conservatives want us to pull out of.

**Share the security burden - more defence co-operation with allies.** European countries need to work together more effectively on defence and security. There are huge savings to be made by buying in bulk and sharing military assets. With the defence budget under terrible strain, it would be irresponsible not to pursue this.

**Keep the pressure on for CAP reform and to close wasteful Strasbourg Parliament.** Europe is vital to Britain's interests, but that doesn't make it perfect. We will continue to fight for reform of agricultural subsidies so farmers get a fair deal. And we will fight to stop MEPs having to travel to Strasbourg every month, wasting €200m a year.