

Jill Evans MEP

**Annual Report
2009/10**



The Greens | EFA
in the European Parliament



Plaid

Web: JillEvans.net

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It is eleven years since I was first elected to represent all of Wales in the European Parliament. I was delighted to be re-elected last June and I thank every one of you who put your trust in me. At this time of economic and climate crisis we need to make Wales's voice heard louder than ever before.

It was a great honour for me to be elected as the President of our seven strong European Free Alliance (EFA) group in the European Parliament. We work with the Greens and together we are the fourth biggest political group. As EFA President I am a Vice President of the whole Greens/EFA group. This gives Wales an even stronger voice.

This report is to give you more information about my work as your MEP. I am involved in many campaigns to get the very best deal for Wales in Europe and to raise our international profile. This past year has been the most successful ever. We certainly made our presence felt (and heard) in the European Parliament. Thanks to all the groups and individuals who came to Brussels and Strasbourg, whether for a visit, to lobby, to perform or to gain work experience. Each one of you helps put Wales more firmly on the map.

Thank you, too, to all those who have written to or emailed me on issues that concern you. The best way of knowing that I am representing you is if you tell me. The more support I have from constituents, the more influence it gives me. Please keep writing!

As ever, my thanks to everyone in Plaid Cymru and my colleagues for their support. But I can only do my job properly with the backing of my own team. I am very lucky to have such dedicated staff who believe as passionately as I do in fighting for Wales. My special thanks to Sara Davies, Sara Medi, Darren Jones, David Bradley and Marcus Warner and also to my former Administrative Officer, Ann Rees Sambrook.



Jill Evans MEP with Frieda Brepoels (Flanders) and Ian Hudghton (SNP), on her election as President of the EFA Group.

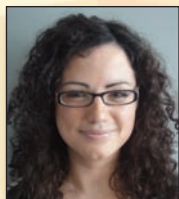
Jill

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EFA members:

Ian Hudghton - Scotland Frieda Brepoels - Flanders Francois Alfonsi - Corsica
Oriol Junqueras - Catalonia Alyn Smith - Scotland Tatjana Zdanoka - Latvia

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Visitors to the European Parliament



Visitors to the Parliament

Carmarthenshire Council Democracy Project (1) • Caerphilly Youth Forum (4) • Swansea Bay Rotary Club (3)
 Rathbone Cymru Young Ambassadors (2) • Pilgrims remembering the martyrdom of Saint John Roberts (5)
 Ospreys Supporters Choir • Quakers Council • Urdd Gobaith Cymru - Ceredigion branch
 Pembrokeshire Climate change campaigners • Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg • RESEC (Research in Social and Elderly Care)
 NFU • FUW

Young people on work experience

Swyn Haf - Ceredigion • Gwenllian Jones - Carmarthenshire • Cai Elis - Conwy Valley • Hedydd Mai Phylip - Ceredigion
 Dafydd Green - Ynys Môn • Owain James - Cardiff

Partnership for Jobs

Ensuring that Wales receives the maximum amount of EU funding has always been a priority for Plaid Cymru. The Commission is currently drafting plans for funding after 2013. Jill has mobilised Wales's four MEPs to campaign together on issues like regional funding and they have had meetings with the First Minister and Deputy First Minister and other key figures. Jill has campaigned against Labour - and now Conservative - governments to prevent European funds being "nationalised". It is essential we keep targeting the poorest areas and keep working with the European Investment Bank and on schemes like ProAct and ReAct to support employment and create new jobs.



Fighting Climate Change

Jill was one of the thousands who went to Copenhagen last December for the UN Climate Change Summit. In the run up to the summit she had spoken at many events across Wales with fellow campaigners calling for a binding international agreement. She also invited a group of Pembrokeshire constituents to the European Parliament to put their views to MEPs and the European Commission. Copenhagen was a failure but the campaign goes on. Jill promotes the One Wales Government's radical plans to tackle climate change and create new green jobs.



Another First for the Welsh Language

A seminar was organised by EFA in the European Parliament in Brussels in March on language diversity. For the first time ever simultaneous translation was provided for Welsh and Catalan. Jill chaired the first session. Cefin Campbell of Sbectrwm gave a presentation on the situation of the language in Wales and representatives of Cymdeithas yr Iaith attended. The seminar attracted over two hundred people.



What's in our Food?

Jill is a well known campaigner on good food and clear food labelling. A new law on labelling was voted on in the European Parliament and Jill raised constituents' concerns about three issues: that the label should show the country of origin so we know, for example, whether meat really comes from Wales; a traffic light labelling system showing the amount of sugar, fat and salt in food; labelling of eggs from battery hens.

She also voted to label meat and dairy products from animals fed on genetically modified feed and to ban food from cloned animals. Jill is active in the campaign to keep Wales GM free.



Where does your old laptop end up?

Electronic and electrical waste is the fastest growing waste stream in Europe. Items like computers and mobile phones often can't be recycled here because of the chemicals they contain. Instead they end up being shipped to the poorest countries where they are dismantled or burned causing terrible health and environmental problems. The aim of the Restriction of Hazardous Substances law is to stop the problem substances being used in the first place and use safer alternatives. Jill is the MEP responsible for steering an update of this law through parliament and she is now in discussions with the EU government ministers.



Farming for the Future

Farmers in Wales are already discussing with Jill the effects of a new EU agricultural policy after 2013. The priorities are to recognise and support the key role of farmers in food production and a sustainable Welsh countryside; to support local food production and to promote Welsh produce. Jill campaigned hard against the electronic tagging of sheep (EID) and for a ban on the import of beef from Brazil. Jill succeeded in amending a law to allow the use of pioneering biodigestors developed by Bangor University. She also got guarantees that independent inspection of slaughterhouses will continue. In June Jill hosted a presentation of the Welsh government's Glastir scheme in the European Parliament.



Peace and Justice

Jill's initiative to establish a Peace Institute in Wales has attracted growing support. Several groups submitted a petition to the National Assembly and Jill invited the President of Flanders' Peace Institute, Nelly Maes, on a speaking tour of Wales. Nelly presented evidence to the Petitions Committee in February.



A year after the Israeli attack on Gaza, Jill returned there in January to see the situation for herself. It is a humanitarian disaster. Jill has continued to call in parliament for the siege of Gaza to be lifted and an end to the occupation of Palestine. While in Gaza Jill visited a dental unit funded by the Churches in Wales.

Jill is a Vice-Chair of the cross party group on Western Sahara which organised a conference on the violation of fishing rights by Morocco. She is also a member of the delegation with Iraq.

Ospreys Choir

Songs like Calon Lân and Myfanwy echoed through the European Parliament in April when Jill organised a concert by the Ospreys Supporters Choir. The evening was enjoyed by Welsh expatriates and MEPs and staff from many countries. An added bonus was excellent Welsh cheese kindly provided by the Blaenafon Cheddar Company. The choir presented Jill with a unique Ospreys lovespoon. The singing carried on well into the night on the square outside the parliament where the choir attracted an enthusiastic audience.





Messages marking the European Year of Biodiversity 2010
Negeseuon yn nodi Blwyddyn Ewropeaidd Bioamrywiaeth 2010



Speaking to pupils at St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School, Penarth on Europe Day
Yn siarad â disgyblion Ysgol Gynradd Sant Joseph, Penarth ar Ddydd Ewrop



Visiting Palestine with the Campaign to End the Siege of Gaza
Yn ymweld â Phalesteina gyda'r Ymgyrch i ddod â'r gwarchae ar Gaza i ben



Talking to a young farmers group in the parliament chamber
Yn siarad â grwp o ffermwyr ifanc yn siambr y senedd



At the Aldermaston Atomic Weapons Establishment protesting against Trident nuclear weapons
Yn Sefydliad Arfau Atomig Aldermaston yn protestio yn erbyn arfau niwclear Trident



Plaid's President-elect with party leader and Deputy First Minister Ieuan Wyn Jones AM
Llywydd newydd Plaid gydag arweinydd y blaid a Dirprwy Prif Weinidog Ieuan Wyn Jones AC



Talking to farmers on Ty'n Llwyfan farm in Llanfairfechan
Yn siarad â ffermwyr ar fferm Ty'n Llwyfan yn Llanfairfechan



A visit to Monmouthshire Community Recycling in Caldicot
Ymweliad ag Ailgylchu Cymunedol Sir Fynwy yng Nghil y Coed