

Southwark Left Unity

LEFT UNITY POSITION ON EUROPEAN ELECTIONS 2014

Given that Left Unity for a variety of reasons – lack of regional infrastructure, cost of deposits, and above all a lack of campaigning activists – will not be in a position to contest the European elections in May 2014 it needs to have a clear stance on its electoral strategy in relation to other parties contesting this election. It is clear that this election will be a very important one, not only for the UK but for the whole of Europe, with the spectre of the Far Right taking many seats in the new European parliament and its UK variety – UKIP doing very well here. Many in Left Unity will regard this election, with its PR electoral form, as an important opportunity to fight back against both UK and European wide xenophobia, Fascism and austerity. However, it is vitally important for the political and ideological (not to mention ethical) future of Left Unity that it is not seen to back parties which have a record of supporting austerity and cuts, on the basis that they are “the lesser of two evils”

In the light of all of these issues this conference resolves to:

1. Not to give its support in these European elections to any other party standing for election and to make clear that it is up to the individual view of its members as to how they wish to cast their votes.
2. To allow any region, which believes that it is necessary because of the threat of a Fascist or Xenophobic victory in its region, to support another party which it may regard as ideologically and politically crucial for that region. This decision shall apply only to a region following a full and democratic meeting in that region, which all regional members shall be informed of with several weeks notice.
3. Any national Spokespersons or members of the National Council in their dealings with the media shall make it abundantly clear that Left Unity is totally neutral in the European election and does not give its support to any other party. This shall not apply in relation to any region which has voted to support another party but it shall be made clear that this was for regional/local reasons.
4. Any national Spokesperson or member of the National Council who supports a vote for another party in the European election, shall make it clear that this is a personal position and is not the view of the party.