

"In an unsafe world, the EU offers us safety in numbers." Liberal Democrat European Election Briefing with Nick Clegg MP

at Tue May 12 14:06:25 2009



In the run-up to European elections, the Foreign Press Association welcomed the Liberal Democrat Party to brief press on their election campaign with leader **Nick Clegg** and Liberal Democrat MEPs **Sarah Ludford** and **Andrew Duffy**.

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In front of foreign and national media, Nick Clegg stressed the importance of Britain fostering a strong working relationship with the European Union claiming that amid the global threats of terrorism, climate change and the credit crunch, all countries "had to work together to make (it) safer".

Indeed with respect to these international dangers, which were at the hub of the Liberal Democrat European election manifesto, Mr Clegg made a scathing attack on Labour and the Tories, branding the former as "finished" and the latter as a "wasted vote", who would make the British families "less safe". He then singled out Liberal Democrats as the only party with answers and the "vote for hope".

Leader of the Liberal Democrats in the European Parliament, Andrew Duffy, next took to the floor explaining the party's current role in the EU. He mentioned the party's pioneering measures for carbon capture storage (CCS) as well as their lobbies for stronger economic regulation and foreign security. He repeatedly criticised the Conservatives for their "populist" and "counter intuitive" policies that were a threat to the EU's "solidarity and tolerance."

Sarah Ludford regaled the Tories for opposing efforts to uphold civil rights in the EU. By contrast she went on to explain the Liberal Democrat's position which is to reject mass surveillance and promote "cross border co-operation".

In response to the expenses scandal, Nick Clegg urged that all parliamentarians should apologise and "be forthright" in redressing the lack of public confidence in British politics. He closed with the assurance that all Liberal Democrat MEP candidates would be "committed to publish all sources of money from the taxpayer."

-- Radhika Dandeniya

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