

# Daily News 19 / 05 / 2017

## **EU protects citizens from toxic mercury, paves the way for global action**

Yesterday at the UN headquarters in New York, the European Union has triggered the entry into force of the global treaty aimed at reducing exposure to mercury. The ratification of the [Minamata Convention on Mercury](#), the new global treaty on mercury, confirms Europe's leading role to protect citizens' health and the environment around the world. Karmenu Vella, Commissioner for Environment, Fisheries and Maritime Affairs said: *"The new global treaty on mercury will help protect millions of people all over the world from exposure to this toxic heavy metal. With ratification the EU has delivered the decisive bit and triggered its entry into force. This is a great success of EU green diplomacy. It highlights Europe's commitment to strong and concerted international action."* Upon initiative from the EU, the Minamata Convention on Mercury was negotiated and concluded in 2013. The EU has one of the most ambitious policies for protection against mercury. However, as 40 to 80 % of mercury deposited in Europe comes from mercury emissions in other parts of the world, strong international action is needed to protect the health of our citizens. The Minamata Convention, will not only tighten environmental standards worldwide, but also help create a level playing-field, as all major economies will apply environmental requirements similar to those already in force in the EU. Pregnant women, infants and children are at particular risk from mercury in the food-chain, and the Convention will bring about significant decreases to their exposure in the long term. For example, by prohibiting the use of dental amalgam for these vulnerable categories. A [press release](#) and [Q&A](#) are available. (For more information: Enrico Brivio – Tel.: +32 229 56172; Iris Petsa – Tel.: + 32 229 93321)

## **Commission launches public consultation on promoting social inclusion and shared EU values through education**

How should education in Europe help young people to thrive in increasingly diverse societies faced with rising social and economic inequality, polarised debate and violent extremism? That is the central question of a [public consultation](#) launched by the European Commission today. Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, Tibor Navracsics, said: *"Shared values such as mutual respect and freedom of expression are fundamental to the functioning of our democracies. I believe that education can play a stronger role not only in equipping young people with skills but also helping them to become engaged citizens who can live together respecting their differences and being able to distinguish facts from propaganda."* Replies to the public consultation can be submitted via the online questionnaire until 11 August and will contribute to shaping a draft Council Recommendation on the issue to be presented before the end of this year. The Recommendation was announced in the Commission's [Communication on Supporting the prevention of radicalisation leading to violent extremism](#). Further information on tackling violent radicalisation through education and youth action can be found in this [factsheet](#). (Further information: Nathalie Vandystadt – Tel. +32 229 67083;

Inga Höglund – Tel. +32 229 50698)

### **Agriculture: the Commission approves new geographical indication from the United Kingdom**

The Commission has approved today the addition of a new wine name from the United Kingdom to the quality register of Protected Designations of Origin (PDO). The “Darnibole” is a white, dry wine made from bacchus grapes variety. Darnibole is situated exactly in the centre of Cornwall. Darnibole wines have a combination of original wine grape notes. This new PDO will be added to the list of over 1 750 wine terms already protected. The full list is available in the [e-bacchus](#) database. More information can be found on the webpages on [quality products](#). (For more information: Daniel Rosario – Tel: +32 229 56 185; Clémence Robin – Tel: +32 229)

### **Mergers: Commission clears the acquisition of MPS by Westrock**

The European Commission has approved under the EU Merger Regulation the acquisition of sole control by WestRock Company (USA) over Multi Packaging Solutions International Limited (“MPS”, Bermuda). MPS is active in the manufacture and sale of specialty packaging solutions, such as premium folding cartons, mainly for pharmaceutical goods, consumer goods and media purposes, and rigid packaging for perfumes and spirits. Westrock is a multinational provider of paper and packaging solutions for consumer and corrugated packaging markets. It provides a variety of packaging solutions such as folding cartons or, paperboard to customers in the several different sectors. The Commission in particular investigated the market for folding cartons for beverages in the UK and the markets for folding cartons for pharmaceutical products in the UK and Ireland. With regard to folding cartons for beverages, the Commission considered that the activities of the companies were focused on different market segments. In relation to folding cartons for pharmaceutical products, the transaction did not significantly change the market structure in the UK. In Ireland, the Commission found that a number of competitors remained in the market and the barriers to enter the market for these products were rather low. The transaction was examined under the normal Phase I merger review procedure. More information is available on the Commission’s [competition](#) website, in the public [case register](#) under the case number [M.8421](#). (For more information: Ricardo Cardoso – Tel.: +32 229 80100; Maria Tsoni – Tel.: +32 229 90526)

### **Mergers: Commission clears creation of cinema advertising joint venture by UCI Italia and TSC**

The European Commission has approved under the EU Merger Regulation the creation of a joint venture that will be active in cinema advertising between UCI Italia and The Space Cinema 1 (“TSC”), both of Italy. UCI Italia is indirectly controlled by the Dalian Wanda Group of China through AMC of the US. TSC is controlled by Vue International of the UK, jointly controlled by

two investment companies of Canada. Both UCI Italia and TSC are providers of cinema exhibition services in Italy and also sell advertising space in their cinemas. The Commission concluded that the proposed transaction would not raise competition concerns because a number of strong competitors will remain on the market for cinema advertising services to which competing cinemas could sell their advertising space. The transaction was examined under the normal merger review procedure. More information is available on the Commission's [competition](#) website, in the public [case register](#) under the case number [M.8431](#). (For more information: Ricardo Cardoso – Tel.: +32 229 80100; Maria Tsoni – Tel.: +32 229 90526)

### **Concentrations: la Commission approuve la création d'une entreprise commune par EDF, CDC et Mitsubishi**

La Commission européenne a autorisé, en vertu du règlement européen sur les concentrations, l'acquisition du contrôle conjoint de l'entreprise commune nouvellement créée, NGM S.A.S. ("NGM") par les entreprises Électricité de France ("EDF"), Caisse des dépôts et consignations ("CDC") – toutes trois basées en France, et Mitsubishi Corporation du Japon. L'entreprise commune sera active dans le développement, le financement et la gestion de divers projets en matière de mobilité électrique. EDF est principalement active dans le secteur de l'électricité en France et à l'étranger. CDC est une institution publique active dans le financement de projets d'intérêt général, la prise de participations dans des secteurs ouverts à la concurrence et la gestion de fonds. Mitsubishi est active dans divers secteurs, y compris l'environnement et les infrastructures, l'industrie manufacturière, la finance, et l'énergie. La Commission a conclu que la concentration envisagée ne soulèverait pas de problème de concurrence, compte tenu du fait que l'entreprise commune ne prévoit d'exercer qu'une activité négligeable sur le territoire de l'Espace Economique Européen. La transaction a été examinée selon la procédure simplifiée de contrôle des concentrations. De plus amples informations sont disponibles sur le [site internet concurrence](#) de la Commission, dans le [registre public](#) des affaires sous le numéro d'affaire [M.8447](#). (Pour plus d'informations: Ricardo Cardoso – Tel.: +32 229 80100; Maria Tsoni – Tel.: +32 229 90526)

### **Mergers: Commission clears the acquisition of Iona Energy by TPG and Oaktree Capital**

The European Commission has approved under the EU Merger Regulation the acquisition of joint control by TPG and Oaktree Capital Group Holdings GP (both of the USA) over Iona Energy Company Limited (UK). Iona Energy owns and develops the Orlando and Kells oil fields in the North Sea. TPG is a global private investment firm managing various funds that invest in a variety of companies through acquisitions and corporate restructuring. Oaktree is a global investment management company specialising in credit strategies. The Commission concluded that the proposed acquisition would not raise competition concerns given the very limited overlaps between the companies' activities. The transaction was examined under the simplified merger review procedure. More information is available on the Commission's [competition](#) website, in the public [case register](#) under the case number [M.8443](#). (For more information: Ricardo Cardoso – Tel.: +32 229 80100; Maria Tsoni – Tel.: +32

### **Concentrations: la Commission approuve la création d'une entreprise commune par Safran et China Eastern Airlines**

La Commission européenne a autorisé, en vertu du règlement européen sur les concentrations, la création d'une entreprise commune par Safran Landing Systems SAS ("SLS") de France et China Eastern Airlines Co. Ltd ("CEA") de Chine. L'entreprise commune fournira, en Chine, des services d'entretien, de réparation et de révision pour les trains d'atterrissage d'avions commerciaux à couloir unique. SLS, une filiale de Safran SA, fabrique des trains d'atterrissage et des systèmes de freinage pour aéronefs. CEA est une compagnie aérienne chinoise majeure, active sur des routes internationales, domestiques et régionales et dont les principales plateformes sont situées aux aéroports internationaux de Shanghai Pudong et Shanghai Hongqiao. La Commission a conclu que l'opération envisagée ne soulèverait pas de problème concurrence dans la mesure où l'entreprise commune ne sera active qu'en Chine. L'opération a été examinée dans le cadre de la procédure simplifiée du contrôle des concentrations. De plus amples informations sont disponibles sur le site internet [concurrence](#) de la Commission, dans le [registre public](#) des affaires sous le numéro d'affaire [M.8411](#). (Pour plus d'informations: Ricardo Cardoso – Tel.: +32 229 80100; Maria Tsoni – Tel.: +32 229 90526)

### **Commission adopts delegated act to amend regulation on wine labels**

The Commission today adopted a delegated act specifying the conditions under which the name of the "teran" wine grape variety may appear on wine labels of the Protected Designation of Origin (PDO) "Hrvatska Istra", a Croatian wine, allowing its producers to use the name "teran" in the labelling of their wines under specific labelling conditions. "Teran" is and will remain a Slovenian Protected Designation of Origin registered in the EU. This means that, under [existing EU rules](#), the wine is protected against any commercial use of this name by other wines that do not respect the rules provided for in the technical file of the PDO "Teran" of the Slovenian Karst region. Wines that do not respect these rules cannot be placed on the EU market. [Under EU rules](#), a limited exception can be established for the use of the name of a grape variety that coincides with a PDO for wines if justified by existing labelling practices, as is the case with "Teran". This decision was taken in line with the Commission's obligations and after due consultation with all Member States and the general public through the Better Regulation Portal. The document will now be transmitted to the European Parliament and the Council for the usual scrutiny period leading to its publication and entry into force. (For more information: Daniel Rosario – Tel.: +32 229 56185; Clémence Robin – Tel: +32 229 52509)

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Financial integration and stability: European Commission and European Central Bank hold annual conference**

The European Commission is today hosting the yearly European Financial Integration and Stability conference with the European Central Bank (ECB) in Brussels. Valdis **Dombrovskis**, Vice-President responsible for Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union, and Vítor Constâncio, Vice-President of the ECB, will deliver keynote speeches. To coincide with the event, the Commission has published its annual European Financial Stability and Integration Review (EFSIR) report, which takes stock of recent developments in financial markets and the financial sector. The report highlights a positive trend in the recovery of the European economy and identifies private consumption as the main driver for growth, supported by improved bank funding and a better regulatory and supervisory framework. The report also notes that EU banks are much more stable today than in the past: they are better capitalised and have sounder business models, although certain challenges remain. Vice-President **Dombrovskis** said: *"We need to take decisive steps towards financial integration within the EU by completing Banking Union and Capital markets Union. Only as an integrated market do we have the strength to finance our economies, the depth and liquidity for markets to function efficiently, and the scope for innovative finance to develop and scale up."* The [full report](#) and [press release](#) are available online. The programme of the conference is available [here](#) and the event is being web streamed [here](#). (For more information: Vanessa Mock – Tel.: +32 229 56194; Letizia Lupini – Tel.: +32 229 51958)

## **European Commission at the World Economic Forum on the Middle East and North African Jordan**

EU High Representative/Vice-President **Mogherini**, Commissioner **Stylianides** and Commissioner **Bulc** will participate in the [World Economic Forum](#) on the Middle East and North Africa in Jordan on 19-21 May. This forum will bring together over 1,000 public, business and civil society leaders from over 50 countries to discuss common responses to economic, geopolitical and humanitarian challenges in the region, focusing on public-private cooperation, innovation and business development. Focus will also be placed on providing support to countries in the region in managing the impact of the conflict in Syria and working towards regional peace and stability. The HR/VP **Mogherini** will notably participate in the sessions 'Rebuilding for Peace' and the 'Future of Europe' and will discuss relations between the EU and Middle East in a session on 'Europe and the Middle East: from Neighbourhood to Common Destiny'. Commissioner **Stylianides** will participate in a televised panel-discussion 'Protecting Refugees: From Middle East to Europe'. Commissioner **Bulc** will take part in several sessions on infrastructure and investment and meet with Mr Hussein Souob, Minister of Transport of Jordan. In the margins of the forum, the three members of the College will have a joint audience with H.M. King Abdullah II of Jordan, in the presence of Prime Minister H.E. Dr. Hani Mulki and the Minister of Foreign Affairs H.E. Mr. Ayman Al Safadi. Other bilaterals will take place. More information and audiovisual coverage on [EBS](#). (For more information: Catherine Ray – Tel.: + 32 229 69921; Carlos Martin Ruiz de Gordejuela – Tel.: +32 229 65322 ; Enrico Brivio – Tel.: +32 229 56172; Lauranne Devillé – Tel.: +32 229 80833; Daniel



*Puglisi – Tel.: +32 229 69140; Alexis Perier – Tel.: +32 22969143)*

### **Council and Commission set to discuss modernisation of education systems, life-long learning, cultural diplomacy and the review of the audiovisual media services directive**

On Monday 22 May, the European Commission will be represented at the Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council by Commissioner **Navracsics** as well as Commissioner **Thyssen** for the education points and on Tuesday by High Representative/Vice-President **Mogherini** and Vice-President **Ansip**, for the culture and audio-visual points. On Monday, following the Youth Council where the main point is a policy debate on building Europe's future with and for young people, Education Ministers will have a policy debate on improving and modernising education systems and how to involve learners in this process; they will discuss a progress report on [Europass](#); and are set to adopt a general approach on the [European Qualifications Framework for lifelong learning](#). Commissioner **Navracsics** will update the Education Council on recent and upcoming developments in the [Erasmus 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary campaign](#). On Tuesday 23 May, Culture Ministers are expected to adopt a general approach on the revision of the [Audiovisual Media Services Directive](#), aimed at creating a fairer environment for all players, promoting European films, protecting children and tackling hate speech more effectively. Culture Ministers are also expected to agree on Council Conclusions on an [EU strategic approach to international cultural relations](#). Sport Ministers are set to adopt the EU Work Plan for Sport (1 July 2017 – 31 December 2020) and hold a policy debate on sports media and its role in strengthening social inclusion. Press conferences will take place on both days. *(For further information Nathalie Vandystadt – Tel.: +32 2 296 70 83; Christian Wigand – Tel.: +32 2 296 22 53; Sara Soumillion – Tel.: +32 2 296 70 94; Inga Höglund – Tel.: +32 2 295 06 98)*

### **20-23 May: Commissioner Andriukaitis meets representatives of Irish Government, attends Citizens' Dialogue and Litfest on his visit to Ireland**

European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, Vytenis **Andriukaitis**, is on official visit to Ireland on 20-23 May. During the visit he will engage with Health Minister Simon Harris TD, Minister of State for Food, Forestry and Horticulture Andrew Doyle TD and Joint Oireachtas Committee on Health and Children. On Sunday May 21, Commissioner will attend Litfest, A Food and Drinks Literacy Festival at Ballymaloe where he will deliver a speech "To eat is a political statement" focusing on the EU action on food waste. On Monday May 22, Commissioner **Andriukaitis** will hold a [Citizens' Dialogue in Dublin](#) at 17:45 CET, which can be followed [live](#). In addition to health and food safety topics, Commissioner invites citizens to discuss the present and the future of the EU. Citizens and media can attend the debate in person; questions can also be submitted using the Twitter hashtag #EUdialogues. The event will be livestreamed [here](#). *(For more information: Anca Paduraru – Tel.: +32 229 91269; Aikaterini Apostola – Tel.: +32 229 87624)*

[Calendar](#)

The Commissioners' weekly activities

[Upcoming events](#) of the European Commission (ex-Top News)

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## [Euro area financial integration stalls during 2016](#)

PRESS RELEASE

19 May 2017

- Mixed developments underline importance of ambitious capital markets union and completion of the banking union
- New quality indicator shows limited private cross-country risk-sharing
- Development of more pan-European banks could help financial integration and foster risk-sharing via retail credit markets

Overall financial integration in the euro area stalled last year, the European Central Bank's (ECB) annual report on Financial Integration in Europe shows. The report was published today at a joint conference with the European Commission in Brussels. After some years of reintegration of financial markets in the aftermath of the financial crisis an aggregate price-based measure of integration was volatile in 2016 and an aggregate quantity-based measure flattened out. These developments were the result of counterbalancing effects within and across different markets, partly influenced by different economic outlooks across countries, fluctuating global risk aversion and political uncertainty. On the other hand, the ECB's monetary policy continued to support financial integration.

The report for the first time introduces a regular analysis of the quality of financial integration, measuring its economic benefits. Two new indicators show that cross-country risk-sharing is still low and private financial risk-sharing is not contributing much to it. Therefore, a large share of income shocks in member states directly passes through to consumption.

These findings underline the importance of completing the banking union and of taking further steps towards an ambitious capital markets union. For example, the current review of important legislation such as the Capital Requirement Directive (CRD) or the Bank Recovery and Resolution Directive (BRRD) should lead to tangible and timely progress, including in harmonising options and national discretions. Moreover, improving and harmonising insolvency rules can support the integration and development of capital markets.

"Banking union and capital markets union are undoubtedly the two central policy initiatives to catalyse financial integration in the EU for the years

to come. The two projects should be seen as mutually reinforcing initiatives that can bring the Single Market for financial services to the next level”, said ECB Vice-President Vítor Constâncio.

In a special feature the report reviews the process of cross-border bank consolidation in the euro area. Given the significant progress with implementing the banking union, the development of pan-European banks is still fairly limited. Further cross-border mergers and acquisitions could contribute to much needed bank consolidation in some member countries without creating local competition problems. In addition, they could foster retail credit market integration that bolsters risk-sharing and could make a valuable contribution to resolving non-performing loans. Besides the completion of the European banking union, diminishing options and national discretions in the regulatory framework and harmonising insolvency rules, as mentioned above, other targeted financial sector policies removing obstacles to cross-border consolidation should also be considered. This could include, for example, harmonising consumer protection, addressing legacy non-performing loan problems and considering the euro area as a single jurisdiction for calculating Basel systemic surcharges.

**For media queries, please contact Peter Ehrlich, tel.: +49 69 1344 8320.**

[Media contacts](#)

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## **The Tory threat to living standards – Labour demands Tories drop plans to remove Winter Fuel Allowances from pensioners**

Labour

has today demanded that the Tories immediately abandon plans to remove the Winter Fuel Allowances from pensioners.

Speaking

at a press conference this morning, John McDonnell, Labour’s Shadow Chancellor,

said: “This is a savage attack on vulnerable pensioners, particularly those who

are just about managing. We will not stand by and allow so many of them to be back in a situation where they have to choose whether they heat or eat.”

This

comes as Labour today warns that the Tory manifesto represents a threat to



living standards and increased insecurity for pensioners and working people.

Commenting

on the “extraordinary” lack of any mention of living standards in the Tories’ manifesto, McDonnell said: “Living standards are falling under the Tories, yet

Theresa May couldn’t promise that she would seek to address this. There is a clear and unambiguous threat to living standards; an attack on pensioners and on working people.”

Rebecca

Long-Bailey, Labour’s Shadow Business Secretary, outlined the threat the Tories

pose to pensioners, including:

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The

Tories’ new ‘Double Lock’, which would have left pensioners at least £330 worse

off had it been in place in recent years.

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How

five in every six pensioners are set to lose Winter Fuel payments, worth up to £300.

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That

34 million people face the prospect of working longer if Theresa May raises the State Pension age.

And

it is a similar tale for working people:

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Since

2010, the average household is paying more in both direct and indirect taxation: nearly £2,000, with the threat of further tax rises

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Under

the Tories the UK is set to experience the worst decade for real household disposable incomes since 1949.

Alongside

the press conference, Labour has published a new document titled: ‘The Tory Threat To Living Standards’. This analysis reveals the scope of the Tory attack

on living standards, setting out how working people and pensioners will pay the

price of the Tories' betrayal.

**\*\*\*CHECK  
AGAINST DELIVERY\*\*\***

**John**

**McDonnell, Labour's Shadow Chancellor**, speaking at a press conference outlining the Tory threat to working people, said:

**On  
the Tory manifesto:**

"This was a manifesto that offers working people and pensioners' insecurity with a huge question mark over their living standards.

"Gone was the commitment to raise working people's living standards. Gone was the commitment not to raise taxes on working people. And gone was the commitment to protect pensioners' incomes through the triple lock.

"This signals a clear threat to working people and to pensioners. So that's the choice at this election; a threat to working people's and pensioners' living standards if the Tories are re-elected on the 8th of June, or a Labour plan to support working people. A Labour plan that will introduce a Real Living Wage of £10 an hour by 2020. A Labour plan that will commit to no income tax, VAT or NICs rises for 95 per cent of tax payers. And a Labour plan that will invest in our vital public services.

"That's the choice at this election. A clear threat to working people's living standards or a Labour Party that will stand up for the many, and not the few.

**On  
wages:**

"We are currently witnessing the worst decade for pay in 200 years.

"Real wages are still lower today than they were when the Tories came to power in 2010.

"According to the OECD, the UK is the only advanced major economy where growth has returned since the crash but wages have fallen.

"And it is unlikely to stop there. Experts have warned that with the cost of living

increasing, household incomes are set to be squeezed even further.”

**On  
taxation:**

“Under the Tories working families are paying more in tax and there are further tax rises in the pipeline.

“Since 2010, the average household is paying more in both direct and indirect taxation- a total of nearly £2,000.

“Labour is promising no increase in taxation on low and middle income earners. The Tories in contrast have form on tax rises.

“They have increased taxes on working people before and they will do it again.”

**Rebecca  
Long-Bailey, Labour’s Shadow Business Secretary, said:**

**On  
pensioners:**

“The Tories have launched an all-out attack on pensioner incomes, by abandoning the Triple Lock, cutting Winter Fuel Payments, raising the State Pension age, and breaking promises on social care and GP access.

“They’ve laid bare the threat they pose to pensioners’ security and living standards. They have shown beyond doubt they’re turning their backs on older people and to future generations of pensioners.

“Theresa May’s message to millions of workers is now this: work for years longer only to receive far less generous support in old age.

**Notes to editors:**

- Link to ‘The Tory threat to living standards’ document: [http://www.labour.org.uk/page/-/party-documents/9684\\_17%20Tory%20threat%20to%20Living%20Standards.pdf](http://www.labour.org.uk/page/-/party-documents/9684_17%20Tory%20threat%20to%20Living%20Standards.pdf)

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**[Dr Clare Gerada’s letter regarding her](#)**

## concerns about the NHS's future:

The Liberal Democrats recently distributed a letter signed by Dr Clare Gerada setting out her view on the challenges facing the NHS.

Clare absolutely stands by those comments however the letter did contain incorrect details regarding Clare's time at the Royal College of General Practitioners. We thank Clare for publicising her concerns about our NHS and apologise for the drafting error. Here is the correct version of Clare's letter:

Dear,

The NHS has been my life.

I started work as a doctor in 1982. For thirty-five years, I've proudly served our NHS, including senior leadership positions.

One of our proudest institutions is being damaged by a desperate quest for privatisation by Theresa May's Conservatives.

Our beloved NHS is at breaking point.

This winter saw the worst ever crisis for A&E departments. 1.2 million of our elderly people are not getting the care they need. 15% of operations are cancelled.

We cannot let this vandalism go on any longer. That's why I am campaigning for the Liberal Democrats in this election.

The Liberal Democrats are the only party to set out a clear plan to fund the NHS. A penny on income tax for the NHS will ease the pressure on NHS staff and patients until long-term solutions can be found.

The future of the NHS is in your hands.

Five more years of Theresa May's Conservatives will give them free reign for more and more NHS cuts. Only a vote for the Lib Dems is a vote of confidence in our NHS.

Best wishes,

Dr Clare Gerada

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# The Conservatives three-pronged attack on pensioners

The Conservative Party manifesto launched an all-out attack on pensioner incomes, with three major new burdens placed on older people:

1. Scrapping the 'triple lock' on state pensions so that pensioner incomes are no longer protected from a Tory hard Brexit.
2. Means testing Winter Fuel Payments to remove support to heat the homes of 10 million pensioners
3. Forcing those who need social care to pay for it using their homes

Labour will stand up for older people by maintaining the triple-lock on state pensions, protect winter fuel payments and free bus passes and spend an additional £8 billion over the Parliament on addressing the Tories' social care crisis, while also laying the foundations for a new National Care Service.

Commenting on the pensioner penalties being promised by the Conservatives, **Jeremy Corbyn, Leader of the Labour Party**, said:

"Theresa May's nasty party has launched a shameful attack on older people – introducing a compassion tax to force those in need of social care to pay for it with their family home. Labour is standing up for pensioners and guaranteeing the triple-lock on state pensions, as well as giving social care the funding it needs.

"It is clear the Conservatives are offering more of the same, tax giveaways for their billionaire friends and nothing for ordinary people. Labour is standing up for the many, not the few."

**Debbie Abrahams, Shadow Work and Pensions Secretary** said:

"The Conservative Party is completely abandoning older people by scrapping the pensions 'triple lock', removing the Winter Fuel Allowance from 10 million pensioners, making 34 million people work longer and forcing those who need care to pay for it with their family home.

"This is the direct result of seven years of Tory economic failure. Labour completely oppose this shocking attack on a whole generation.

"We will deliver a secure and dignified retirement for the many, not just the few wealthy enough to manage under these Tory attacks."

Ends

## **Notes to editors**

According to the Resolution Foundation, the Conservative manifesto commitment to means test the Winter Fuel Payment will remove entitlement from 10 million pensioners:

<http://www.resolutionfoundation.org/media/blog/death-taxes-the-conservative-manifesto-and-the-changing-politics-of-intergenerational-fairness/>