

High Representative/Vice-President Federica Mogherini in New York

New York City, 8 May 2017

Good evening. I have a special feeling, like being home tonight. I would like to start not with thanks (I will leave that for later), but I would like to start from why we are here together tonight.

I could not think of a better year to celebrate Europe Day here in New York with António (Guterres), showing the strong, I would say the strongest possible partnership between the European Union and the United Nations.

First of all, because Europe, the European Union, turns 60 this year. It's an interesting age. The age of self-confidence; the age of maturity; the age also when you can afford looking back – where you've been, what you've achieved; but also looking at the future. And it is this exercise that the EU is trying to do, struggling to do, with many forms of challenges of the European Union today. I also believe we have opportunities today, this year and the coming years. And I think the partnership with the United Nations highlights the enormous responsibility we as the European Union have to bring forward this agenda for peace that the EU embodies.

We have built 60 years of peace after having experienced thousands of years of war. And the power of our experience still feels very strong in all the countries of our region, from the Balkans, to our Eastern partners and the southern Mediterranean. Seen from the outside, the European Union is the most successful peace project ever built, and still is the most powerful actor for the UN agenda. We were discussing this today with the Secretary-General.

The EU is still the first humanitarian donor worldwide; the first investor in development assistance; the first provider on peace and security, especially through the UN system; and the first sponsor of the big multilateral agreements the UN reached last year, the SDGs and the Paris Agreement on Climate. And we focus on implementation, because we believe multilateralism is the way.

We built 60 years of peace, human rights, rule of law and economic opportunities thanks to the fact that our founding fathers (and mothers) believed one very simple truth: rather than killing each other as we had done for centuries, it was much more convenient for us all to cooperate. And it started with something very simple if you look at it in geopolitical terms. It started out of a very simple economic cooperation.

But out of that, we've managed to build a powerful economic and social integration project. I know it is challenged from many sides, but you see recently that all those who predicted that it was the beginning of the end were proven wrong, and that we are realizing today that the European Union is what we Europeans need.

Maybe for my generation it's been the luxury of traveling without passports, having the single currency, studying in another EU country with Erasmus. Today I believe it is the need for Europe – the only way we have to manage a globalized world, together. I often say – and I apologize to those who have heard me say it already – there is no European country that is big or small: we are all small compared to the size of the world powers. So, only together can we support our common agenda.

I even have a difficulty saying EU-UN partnership, because the UN is our common house. It's not something separate from us. In the UN, after the wars of the previous century...the international community chose cooperation and the constant search for common grounds and solutions. And for us, it's the common home; it's the core of the global system.

Celebrating Europe Day this year in New York with the new Secretary-General is not only a great honor that he gives us, but also a promise of our commitment.

It's not only the EU and its Member States that have challenges; the UN system has its challenges, too. You can always count on the European Union. Not because of charity, but because we see in the UN the best way to achieve our common goals. And I'm sure they are the common goals of many friends in this room, many who are from different parts of the world, here to honor the EU and the UN together, based on the value of the human being, and the value of peace.

I would like to say two last things, about the future. 60 years ago we were a small group of European countries. Today we are 28. Some say that in the future we will be 27. I can tell you we will be more than 27, because if we are serious about our accession negotiations with new countries, the future of the EU will be with new Member States. And I know this is an unpopular thing to say, but I'm really serious when I say that we have to continue unifying our continent. I don't like talking about "enlargement"...which I consider condescending.

For the second thing, I would like to end with a "thank you", not only to António, who honors us with his presence here today – I believe not just as a European Secretary-General, but as the UN Secretary-General who celebrates the unity of Europe. And the contribution we are determined to continue giving to the multilateral system, in all fields, from security to development.

But also, I would like to thank the many friends from all over the world who join us here today, not only to work towards the next 60 years of this strong EU-UN, but also for the EU itself. Because it is questioned many times in these times. And I believe that in Rome, on 25 March this year, when we were celebrating with our EU leaders, the Heads of State and Government, the achievements of the past 60 years, we saw a new commitment. I think that sometimes in life, you realize what you have in the moment only in the moment you could lose it. And I think that we in the EU realize what we have, and what we risk to lose. And the responsibility of countries to invest in what our fathers and mothers have managed to build after the Second World War and

for the future of our Union, which I believe unites us even more than the celebration of our past.

We have had 60 great years of achievement, but the best is yet to come. And I am counting on strong leadership in New York, in difficult times, but with lots of positive energy and wisdom that will be supported by us every single step of the way.

Thank you very much for joining us.

[Article – Brexit: protecting the rights of millions of EU citizens living in the UK](#)

Although few of them were allowed to vote during the referendum, the millions of EU citizens living in the UK will be among those affected the most by Brexit. The EU wants to reach a deal to protect their rights as soon as possible during the upcoming negotiations with the UK. This week Parliament is holding a hearing on the situation and rights of EU citizens in the UK. Watch the meeting live online and check out our infographic for the facts.

The hearing on 11 May is organised by the civil liberties, employment and petition committees. Members will discuss with experts the issues facing EU citizens in the EU and the best ways to protect their rights.

Safeguarding people's rights in the wake of Brexit is a priority for the Parliament, including those of Brits living in other EU countries. In the Parliament position adopted on 6 April, MEPs stressed the importance of securing equal and fair treatment for EU citizens living in the UK and British citizens living in the EU. Parliament President Antonio Tajani also brought up the issue with UK Prime Minister Theresa May during a visit to London on 20 April: "The students, workers and families are valuable members of society and deserve some certainty regarding their future."

[Now Greens surrender to SNP right across the country](#)

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- Now Greens surrender to SNP right across the country

9 May 2017



The Greens are to field less than 10 candidates across Scotland in the upcoming General Election, it has been reported.

The move came after the SNP urged the party to stand aside in various seats in order to create a “Yes alliance”.

Now the Greens have bowed to that pressure, meaning they won’t feature on the ballot paper in seats like Moray and Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross.

Two years ago, the Greens fielded 32 candidates for the General Election.

But after pressure from colleagues in the SNP, party bosses have opted hardly to feature at all this time around.

Scottish Conservative MSP Murdo Fraser said:

“This is the Green party reaffirming themselves as a pointless presence in Scottish politics.

“The propping up of the SNP is embarrassing and a complete disservice to their voters.

“Quite simply, they might as well not exist.

“If they are so determined to become the SNP, they should disband and merge with the nationalists.

“It’s utterly regrettable that a party previously committed to issues like the environment have become nothing but a support mechanism for the SNP.”

Earlier, it was confirmed the Greens wouldn’t stand in Angus Robertson’s Moray seat:

<http://www.scottishconservatives.com/2017/05/evidence-of-desperate-yes-alliance-in-moray-after-pointless-greens-sit-out-election/>

Now it’s been reported the party will field less than 10 candidates at the General Election in Scotland:

<https://stv.tv/news/politics/1388040-scottish-greens-to-field-fewer-than-ten-candidates/>

Lucas: Labour and Lib Dems have 'betrayed the people they represent'



Green Party

9 May 2017

*** Lucas exposes the extent of other parties failure to back electoral alliances**

*** Green leader says her party will shift focus from alliances to 'winning votes up and down the country'**

*** Lucas slams Labour's 'shameful' treatment of members wanted to form an alliance against Jeremy Hunt**

Caroline Lucas, the co-leader of the Green Party, has slammed both Labour and the Lib Dem's leadership for failing to fully engage with the idea of electoral alliances despite the strong wishes of their members and the wider public.

Yesterday the Labour Party suspended Steve Williams, a member in Surrey who had advocated for an alliance around a pro-NHS candidate to beat Jeremy Hunt. [1]

Lucas has been at the forefront of efforts to push both Labour and Lib Dems to work together to improve the chances of beating the Tories at the next election and secure a fair voting system for future elections. However, the grassroots campaign have been frustrated by both parties. Labour refused to even meet with the Greens and the Lib Dems engaged but only at an arms length.

The Green Party has stood aside in a number of strategically important seats – thus boosting the chances of candidates such as Lib Dem Sarah Olney in Richmond and Labour's Rupa Huq in Ealing.

With Labour and the Lib Dems failing to engage with electoral alliances, and nominations for candidates closing this week, the Green Party co-leader says her party will now 'move on from alliances' and redouble efforts to win votes across the country.

Lucas said:

“Both Labour and the Lib Dems have betrayed the people they represent by not fully engaging with the idea of electoral alliances. Though the Lib Dems were happy to have informal discussion, they never delivered on ruled any meaningful alliances. Labour were even more intransigent – with no hint from their leadership that they were interested in talking about how we best beat this rotten Tory Government.

“Labour’s treatment of Steve Williams in Surrey is both shameful and shortsighted. There was a real chance to unite around a pro-NHS candidate to beat Jeremy Hunt, but Labour might well have now blown it.”

“Labour and the Lib Dems defied their own members on the ground – and the time has now come for the Greens to focus entirely on winning votes up and down the country.

“Electoral alliances matter because we have a broken political system. We have a Government hellbent on some of the most extreme policies in a generation: a crumbling NHS, a jilted generation of young people being let down and the pursuit of a hardline extreme Brexit. Our hugely undemocratic electoral system is so stacked in the establishment’s favour that the Tories can win a [majority on just 24%](#) of the eligible vote. It’s abundantly clear that to crack open our politics we must hack the system and create a more plural politics.

“Having done what we can, our focus is now entirely on winning votes up and down the country – and sending more MPs to Parliament on June 8th. The other parties have proved in recent weeks that they aren’t fit for the modern political age – and in this election we’re offering voters a chance to back a politics which puts people first to deliver a confident and caring country.

[1] <https://twitter.com/SteveWil/status/861655164549312512>

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[Theresa May has once again failed to rule out more National Insurance Contribution – John McDonnell](#)

John

McDonnell, Labour’s Shadow Chancellor, commenting on Theresa May’s refusal to

rule out a rise in National Insurance Contributions, said:

“Theresa

May has once again failed to rule out more National Insurance Contribution increases. There is already a £2 billion black hole in the Budget from when the

Tories tried to sneak through a hike in NICs only a month ago, and it is becoming clear they are looking to try to go ahead with this tax hike if they’re re-elected next month.

“The

Tories still won’t rule out further tax rises on those with low and middle incomes and are a threat to working people.

“Labour’s

personal tax guarantee rules out rises in National Insurance Contributions, VAT

and income taxes for the 95 per cent. Labour is now the party of low taxes for

the many and not the few.”