

**Nessa**  
**Childers** **MEP**  
**Independent**



North Dublin's Independent  
Candidate for Europe

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# News from Brussels and Strasbourg



Photograph courtesy of Photocall Ireland

## **Animal Welfare - treating animals well is a mark of a civilised society**

The EU has already introduced robust laws that protect animals; however, animal welfare concerns are becoming more-and-more urgent as the economic downturn takes hold. Therefore, I was very pleased to sign the Animal Welfare in the EU pledge. The pledge asks that MEPs ensure that animals are recognised as sentient beings in all legislation that comes before the Parliament. It also asks that MEPs strive to ensure existing animal welfare-related legislation is properly enforced.

## **Reducing energy bills, creating jobs and combating climate change**

In Dublin and across Europe, we need to drive ambitious energy efficiency retrofitting plans for homes and businesses. This will reduce energy bills, create jobs and combat climate change, and I have given my full support for Renovate Europe – the campaign to stop energy waste in buildings. For more information, see [www.renovate-europe.eu](http://www.renovate-europe.eu).

“My role is independent of government and political establishments – to ensure decision-makers are held accountable”

## **At long last the EU has stopped unreasonable roaming charges**

I am delighted that the EU has ruled that from December of next year, these charges will be a thing of the past. Irish people holidaying or working in another EU country will no longer arrive home to a hefty mobile phone bill – because the European Parliament is abolishing roaming charges. We all know of at least one horror story: somebody goes abroad, uses the internet to locate their hotel, calls home a couple of times – and then inadvertently they notch up charges totalling hundreds of euro. But from 2015 this will be a thing of the past – we have torpedoed roaming charges!

## **My European Parliament check list**

Campaigned and voted for an EU-wide bankers' tax

Exposed the IFSC lobby group deep within the heart of Government

Achieved EU actions on cancer prevention and mental health research

Voted for tobacco control laws

Strong climate change laws

Against a low-wage economy and insecure employment

“During my time in Brussels, I helped shape EU policy in many public health areas such as Alzheimer’s, disabilities, HIV/AIDS, and food labelling”

### **We cannot allow the EU to leave the next generation behind**

An in-depth Caritas Europa study published in March reveals the presence of widespread poverty and deprivation among children across Europe – features which challenge the view that Europe, and Ireland, are on the road to recovery. With contributions from Father Seán Healy of Social Justice Ireland, it also says the EU is failing the many Europeans left struggling because of austerity. Essential public services have not been protected and Ireland’s inability to create employment is only going to prolong the crisis.

Social Justice Ireland also says that a total of 17 per cent of Irish children are ‘at risk of poverty’ and a third are suffering from material deprivation – all factors that contribute to unemployment in later life.

But this can be turned around with fairer taxation policies and equality budgeting. For positive solutions read the recommendations in the Caritas Europa report [www.caritas.eu](http://www.caritas.eu) or phone my office for a copy.



### **EU and US trade deal talks: should we be concerned?**

An EU-US Free Trade Agreement (TTIP) could bring annual benefits of €119 billion to EU member states, including Ireland. However, several aspects need to be examined carefully before talks conclude – we need to ask who will benefit and at what cost. For instance, if the TTIP deal goes through without the appropriate safeguards for food safety, as some reports have highlighted, we could see GM crops such as corn, soy, pork, chlorinated chicken and hormone meat coming onto the European market. It is of utmost importance that existing EU standards for consumer protection and personal data be safeguarded in the negotiations and the EU should not sacrifice these fundamental rights to free trade.

As the only Irish full member in the Parliament’s Environmental, Public Health and Food Safety Committee, I will be following this issue closely and will wholly support the concerns of Irish environmentalists, NGOs and citizens. This trade agreement cannot be concluded without the support of a majority of MEPs in the European Parliament.

“I represent those who have been ignored, who have been left behind.

I believe in Europe, but not the Europe we have now – instead I want a Europe that protects the interests of ordinary people and their communities. A Europe of accountability and fairness”



“My track record in the European Parliament is straightforward – standing up to the Irish Government and exposing vested interests”



## My policy priorities include:

Returning social solidarity to the heart of EU policy with a new focus that prioritises job creation, halts the low-wage economy, supports the self-employed and small businesses, and promotes fairness and accountability.

Disability rights and access to quality health services as a right, not a privilege.

Writing off the €34 billion bankers' gambling debts unfairly foisted on Irish citizens, thereby allowing the Irish Government to create jobs and protect the vulnerable.

Introducing a banker's tax across Europe, called the Financial Transaction Tax, to allow the banking sector to pay back their fair share to society.

Driving an ambitious energy efficiency retrofitting plan for homes and businesses which will reduce energy bills, create jobs and combat climate change.

## Nessa's CV

Member of the European Parliament Environment and Public Health Committee (2009-2014)

Resigned from the Labour Party in disgust at Government policies on health care, taxation and lack of political reform (July 2013)

Co-Chair European Parliament Mental Health Interest Group (2011-2014)

Co-Chair MEPs Against Cancer (2010-2014)

Councillor, representing Blackrock on Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council (2004 to 2008)

Member Dublin Regional Authority (2004-2008)

Prior to being elected, Nessa established a private practice as a mental health therapist and worked as a self-employed person for more than 20 years (1986-2009)

The daughter of the fourth President of Ireland, Erskine Childers and his second wife, Rita Childers, Nessa has two grown up children and lives in in south Dublin