



People Before Profit Alliance VOTE No1

BRID SMITH

A Workers' Candidate for Europe

- ★ **Brid Smith, the People Before Profit candidate for the Dublin euro seat will fight for workers' rights.**
- ★ **She is an active trade unionist and works as a tutor with the UNITE union.**
- ★ **She was the first woman shop steward in Dublin Bus and has actively supported workers' struggles over the last three decades.**
- ★ **She believes that unions should no longer be tied to the Labour Party and should support political parties which oppose austerity.**

A DUBLIN LIVING WAGE

Workers have experienced six years of pay cuts and freezes. With talk of economic recovery, we need to press claims for a living wage.

Rents, property taxes and the cost of living in Dublin are higher than elsewhere – wages should reflect this. We need a Dublin living allowance.

We need strong unions that fight for wage rises.

REAL JOBS – NOT FORCED LABOUR SCHEMES

The EU promotes 'labour activation' measures and the Irish government has introduced schemes like Gateway which makes people work for 22 months for just €1 an hour. These schemes are replacing real public sector jobs.

I shall campaign against the jobs embargo and for a major public works programme including 'climate jobs' to counter global warming.

NO TO PRIVATISATION

Workers at Dublin Bus, Irish Rail and Dublin Fire Brigade are all facing threats of privatisation.

I oppose all privatisation and will also fight against outsourcing.

PENSIONS

The Labour Party betrayed workers by increasing the retirement age to 68.

I shall fight for legislation to force employers to make adequate contributions to pension funds. The government must implement a European Court of Justice ruling and establish a proper pension insurance scheme to give workers full coverage in the event of insolvency.

ABOLISH THE FEMPI LEGISLATION

The government passed a law in 2013 giving themselves power to change the wages and conditions of public sector workers. It is one of the most draconian pieces of legislation in the whole of the EU.

If elected, I shall highlight how this contravenes basic rights to collective bargaining.

AUTOMATIC RIGHT TO UNION REPRESENTATION

Workers should have an automatic legal right to be represented by a union. The Labour Party promised legislation for this – but it never happened. I will fight for this.

EU LEGISLATION AND WORKERS

Sometimes EU directives can be used to improve workers conditions. But, invariably, the Irish government tries to weaken these mild measures. I shall highlight every directive that can be used to help workers – and fight for them to be made Irish law. But I shall also highlight EU attacks on workers' rights. The EU has recently established a 'nominal unit labour cost' measure which seeks to limit wage rises over a three year period. The EU Commission is trying to block strong health and safety measures under the guise of removing 'red tape'. As an MEP I shall act as a watchdog for workers rights.

Brid Smith asks her supporters to give their No 2 votes to Paul Murphy of the Socialist Party.

“I will not take the massive ‘fat cat’ EU salary but only the average workers’ wage and will donate the rest to political campaigning for working people”



www.bridsmith.net



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