

## Election of Vice Chair of the European Movement

### Statement by Molly Scott Cato

Having served as vice chair for two years I am putting myself forward for a third, and final, term.

I'm so proud of the advances we've made over the past few years. We've seen considerable membership growth and the democratisation of the European Movement, bringing so many more voices, faces, and perspectives into the heart of our organisation. We have positioned EM as the leading organisation in the pro-European space with clear messaging about our mission to return the UK to the EU, step by step.

I have been pleased to see how changes we have made to the functioning of the council are starting to bear fruit and how the standing committees are successfully carrying important parts of our work. I am prepared to offer some continuity in terms of the working of the board but also to suggest some changes.

I would like to see the board come together in person for two strategy days per year. Subjects for this coming year might be:

- How to capitalize on the government's willingness to acknowledge the economic damage done by Brexit and to translate that into some positive steps towards EU membership.
- How to find synergies between our core mission and the urgent need to counter the rise of the far right (See below for some thoughts about how we might tweak our comms strategy to achieve this.)

I would also like to see distinct roles for EM officers, and to bring back regular officers' meetings to ensure closer liaison with staff and focus on agreed strategies.

I believe that officers and committee chairs could help to build links with local groups by offering to visit them to speak or discuss strategy. To facilitate this, I would suggest an online register of members of board and council willing to undertake these activities so that invitations could be made directly.

I'm pleased to see the growing success of our communications function, but I wonder if it could make greater use of recent large-scale polling into what will undermine people's support for Reform. While this is not our core mission, Farage is a threat to UK and European democracy but has avoided responsibility for the disaster of Brexit he provoked.

Data shows that the following messages are more effective at peeling voters away from Reform, and could be included in our regular comms:

- Identifying Farage with the elite
- Linking Farage to Trump

My determination that we should rejoin the EU burns brighter than ever as we see the continuing destruction that Brexit is wreaking on our country, both economically and democratically. I am ambitious for the European Movement and would ask for your support do what I can to further our shared desire to return to the heart of Europe.