

Public debate: 'Making Europe Work for Development'

Dublin, 15 May 2009

**Michelle, Linah, Akshaya, Chloe, Jacob and Oisin
from Griffeen Valley Educate Together, Lucan,
tell MEP candidates about their views on Europe**

Michelle Braic

I am very happy that Ireland is part of the EU.
There are almost 500 million people in Europe and the EU helps us live in peace and harmony

There are many different religions, cultures and languages in the EU and all this makes the EU a very interesting, multi-religious and multi-cultural place to live in and to grow up in.

Our school is very multi-religious and multi-cultural and it fits nicely into the European way.

That's why I like the EU so much.

Linah Lone

One of the most important and useful parts of being in the EU is the common currency.

It is so easy to travel around the EU countries as the euro is to be found in most of these countries.

The EU has been a great support to Ireland. Ireland is a much richer country now than it was before and EU support has been important in the new wealth.

The EU, however, has very rich and very poor people in all its countries. The EU has failed to make Europe a more equal place for all its citizens. I think the "right" to a good living standard should be more important for the politicians in the EU.

Chloe Corrigan

I am happy that Ireland is part of the EU. However I think that the Irish are losing some of our identity in the EU. For example, we no longer have our own currency and I think this is not right.

Also I am worried about the lack of democracy in the EU. The Irish voted against the Lisbon Treaty but EU politicians and Irish politicians are trying to make Irish people change their minds. They even threaten to kick Ireland out of the EU! This is undemocratic and unfair.

Jakob Pasnik

There are many things about the EU that I think are good. There people from 27 countries in the EU who work together to try to make Europe a better place.

However, because of a law made in the EU our school now has to pay thousands of euro in water charges. This means less money for many important things in our school.

Oisin Dhulainn

The EU is trying to stop people from poorer parts of the world coming to live in its 27 countries. This is very unfair and is wrong in my opinion. Big companies based in the EU take money and resources from many different countries, but when the people from these countries try to follow the resources to the EU they are forced to go back home. This is immoral.

Akshaya Ravi's speech is available as a voice recording.