

Liam Ó Gógáin Independent candidate (Ireland East Constituency) EU Election 2004

The questions are:

Why do you want to be a Member of the European Parliament?

✚ The original European Economic Community (EEC) and now European Union only makes sense if the word COMMUNITY is the central focus. Economics and politics should serve to protect, support and enhance the total health of the people within the community.

✚ We need to refocus the EU social policies towards developing sustainable family models which respect and support equally, both Female and Male views and needs. Stable, caring family systems are the vital basis for safe, sustainable communities. Greater affluence as members of the EU has brought many negative aspects to our Irish Community.

✚ As an independent MEP, not beholden to corporations or party whips, I can contribute to challenging, redesigning and formulating EU Policies which put people and their communities first.

My website, at www.liamog.com provides a range of further details of my EuroVision. The objective of developing the website has been to engage visitors in cooperatively creating our future EU agenda. The content is expanding daily as further information and feedback emerges. Using the website is a much more useful, friendly, effective, informative and environmentally safe election campaign tool than the thousands of wasteful billboards littered throughout the countryside and towns.

What are your primary objectives as an MEP?

My main election themes are:

- ✚ The hijacking of Gender Equality within the EU, which discriminates against men and neglects the needs of fathers and their children.
- ✚ Exposing judicial and professional misconduct in the courts.
- ✚ Replacing the abusive secret, “In camera” Family courts with transparent, accountable courts and accurate digital recording of all hearings.
- ✚ Promoting adaptive student centred Education for life long learning.

What do you see as the main issue in your constituency?

- ✚ Judicial, legal and professional misconduct in the courts leading to loss of confidence by the public in the integrity of the judicial system. The “In Camera rule” in Family Law Cases promotes poor legal and judicial standards and must be removed to provide complete transparency and quality assurance.
- ✚ Increasing levels of Divorce/Marriage/Relationship breakdown, with the consequent cutting off of the relationship between children and their grandparents and extended family on their father’s side.
- ✚ The Increasing rate of births outside of Marriage, now over 30%, with no legal rights for such children and their fathers has led to unsustainable drains on taxpayers monies through spiralling Lone Parent Welfare payments where the state acts as the “SUBSTITUTE FATHER”.
- ✚ High rate of male suicides and an increase in the level of frustration of non-custodial fathers, as a result of discrimination against them.
- ✚ Young children have few male role models at home or in school. Boys are performing poorly in examinations and there is a need to redesign educational delivery to engage boys in a more effective way.

- ✚ The original ideals of Gender Equality have been hijacked. EU Social and Family Policy now discriminates against men and neglects the needs of fathers and their children in Ireland.

How will you use your tenure to address this issue?

- ✚ As an independent voice, not beholden to the constraints of towing the party line, I can ensure that the needs of my constituents are not diluted.
- ✚ I will utilise my capability to embrace EU mechanisms in order to refocus EU social policy and support funding, so as to ensure EQUALITY for BOTH MEN and WOMEN.
- ✚ Using the internet and the emerging communication technologies I will ensure that my constituents have direct and immediate access to EU developments and provide easy-to-use mechanisms for constituents to do business with the EU.
- ✚ By bringing a European focus on the Irish judicial and legal system, as an MEP I will work to establish Public confidence in the fairness, professionalism and accountability of the courts, judiciary and legal system.

How do you proposed to engage the electorate more fully in the workings of the European Parliament?

- ✚ Following on from my web-based election campaign, I intend to fully utilise web and emerging communication technologies to engage the constituents of Leinster (East) more directly with EU activities.
- ✚ By providing daily internet updates of EU issues, and a web based forum for my constituents, they will be able to participate in a useful and meaningful way in the EU activities.

- ✚ Providing accessible online forms and explanations I can facilitate constituents' access to the core of EU activities.
- ✚ Using Web and communications technologies will enable me to effectively embrace the younger people in the Leinster (East) constituency to participate and to be heard in EU policies as the future of Ireland and the EU lies in the hands of the younger generation.
- ✚ Being an Independent MEP is a particular advantage in seeking to be creative in making the EU more accessible to the people of Ireland.
- ✚ The administration of the MEP elections discriminates against independent candidates and undermines inclusive democracy. I will ensure through my website that such discrimination and censorship will be exposed, challenged and eradicated.



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