

Fracking Matters **ELECTION** Newsletter 10-14 (141) – 30 April 2014

Contact details: [Web Fracking Free Ireland](#) and [Fracking Matters Newsletter](#)



**Ban Fracking on the Island of Ireland**



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## UPCOMING EVENTS - National

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### Protecting Place – share information Corrib Gas – anti fracking

Sharing learning between communities protecting people and place

<http://protectingplace.wordpress.com/>

Here the programme: <http://protectingplace.wordpress.com/programme/>

They offer accommodation, and some travel costs contact Orla [protectingplace@gmail.com](mailto:protectingplace@gmail.com)

# Protecting Place

A gathering to share learning between communities

SATURDAY 17TH MAY

Are you involved in a campaign in your community? You are invited to take part in a gathering to:

- Find out what people are learning in challenging the Corrib gas project and the fight against fracking
- Share your own experiences from your community or campaign
- Exchange skills, ideas and strategies for community organising

Venue: *Inver Community Centre, Erris, Co. Mayo*

Time: *Saturday 17th May 2014, 10am - 6pm*

Discussions, workshops and more. All welcome. Full details of facilitators, speakers, workshops, travel and accommodation at [protectingplace.wordpress.com](http://protectingplace.wordpress.com)

The event is informed by new action research on experiences of challenging the Corrib gas project and experiences of alliances in the anti-fracking movement carried out by MA students of the Community Education, Equality and Social Activism programme at NUIM. To make a weekend of it, join us for Saturday night entertainment and a scenic walk on Sunday morning. This is a free event but space is limited so please let us know you are coming by April 25th. For more information contact Orla or Jerrieann on 0862596775/ 0876686644

or email: [protectingplace@riseup.net](mailto:protectingplace@riseup.net)

[protectingplace.wordpress.com](http://protectingplace.wordpress.com)



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## CAMPAIGN NEWS – NATIONAL

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### Keep Ireland Fracking Free

FOE has just let us know that their Fracking Free Elections Campaign web page is live now. They have sent out their press release  
Here's their link: <http://www.foe.ie/takeaction/fracking-free-election-campaign/>

We would like to ask all the groups to please do the same

Here is a [template press release](http://frackingfreeireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/2904-PR-template.pdf) with all the relevant info,  
<http://frackingfreeireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/2904-PR-template.pdf>

<http://frackingfreeireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/2904-PR-template.doc>

Feel free to use the template as is or arrange it to suit yourselves.

So, to sum up, would you please:

1. Send out a press release in support of the two fracking free election campaigns (local and European). Please especially try to get it into the local media.
2. Send out an email letting all your supporters know about the campaigns and asking them to check the lists and contact their candidates to ask them to sign the pledge -- the FOE site will automatically send an email to all the candidates in a given constituency.

That's all I think! Thanks everyone very much for your help promoting this.

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## TAKE ACTION

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### Fracking Free Election – Frack Free Europe Campaigns

Email your local politicians and ask them to sign the pledge:

*"I support a Fracking Free Ireland. If elected, I will work to ensure that fracking is not permitted in my area."*

All info: <http://www.foe.ie/takeaction/fracking-free-election-campaign/>

Email you MEP/candidates and ask them to sign the declaration: **No to Fracking, No to TTIP**

All info here: <http://frackingfreeireland.org/2014/04/09/paul-murphy-first-irish-frack-free-mep/>

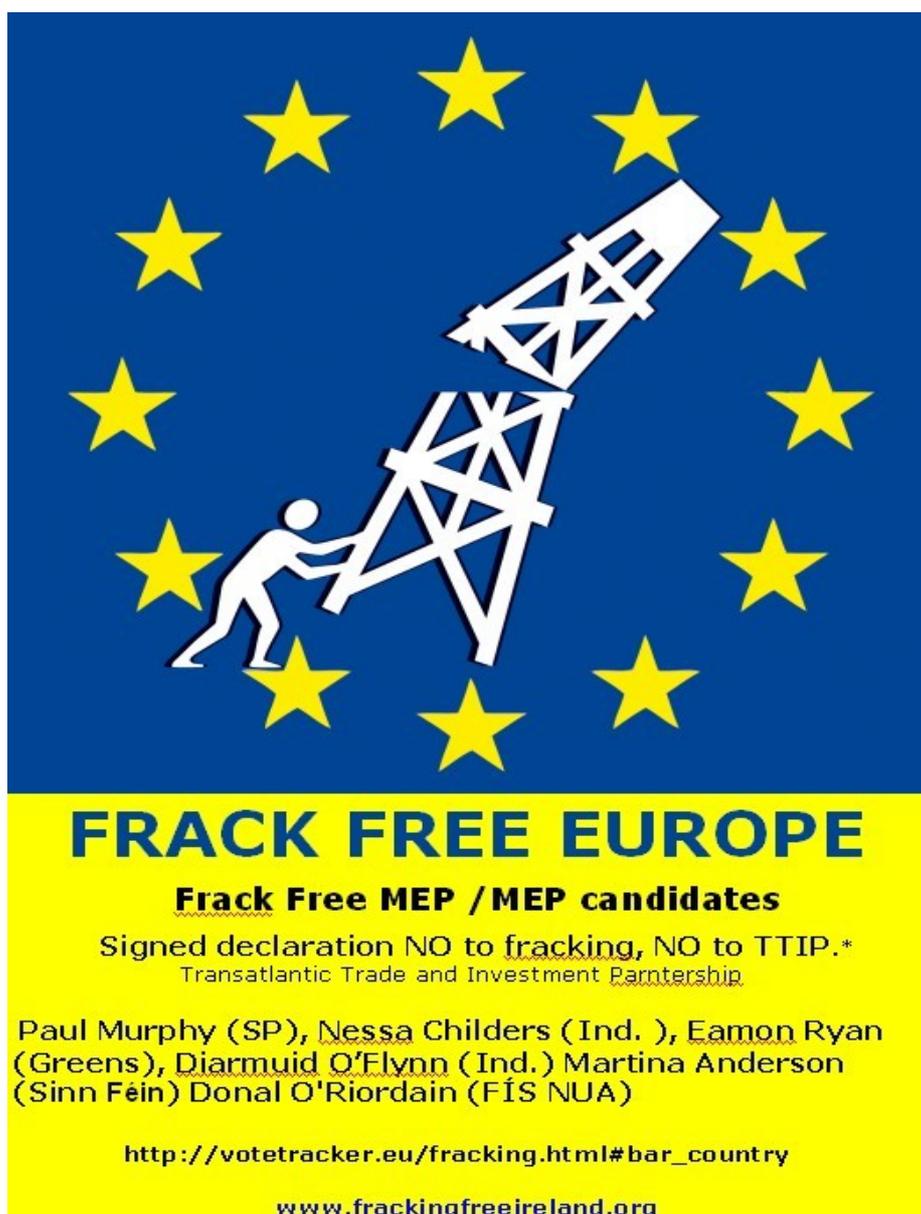
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## POLITICAL NEWS – EU/IRELAND

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Make up your mind to whom you will give your vote in the EU elections.  
Here some help

1. Did your [MEP sign the declaration](#) No to Fracking, No to TIPP
2. How did he/she vote re, fracking, see the [vote tracker](#)
3. Other background information – MEP's position on fracking recorded by FFI



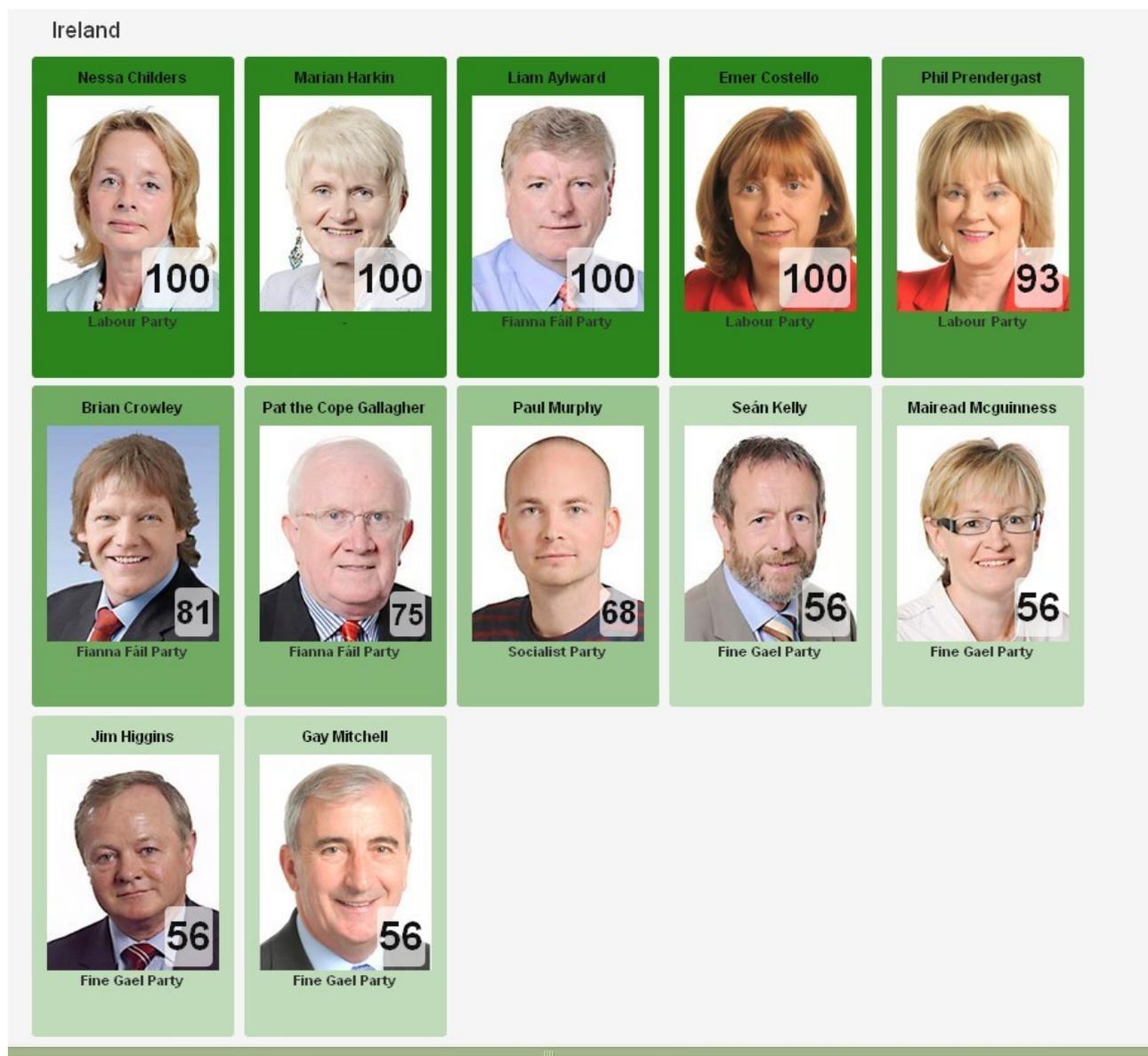
Frack Free Mep's

### 1. A Frack Free Mep/Mep candidate:

- signed the declaration by hand
- didn't alter the text/add footnote (s) to it.

An overview of Irish MEP/MEP candidates and the text of the declaration you will find [here](#)

## 2. How did our MEP's vote?



**Click on the MEP for their fracking voting record -**  
[http://votetracker.eu/fracking.html#bar\\_country](http://votetracker.eu/fracking.html#bar_country)

This is very informative.

3. **Other Background information.** - <http://frackingfreeireland.org/political-issues-2014/politicians-and-fracking/>

### Why is Marian Harkin missing on the Frack Free Europe poster

*'My voting record at all stages in the Parliament, my actions as well as statements clearly show my opposition to fracking. I have attended many meetings in Leitrim, Roscommon and Clare where I have supported anti fracking activists and made my views known. I have invited and sponsored anti fracking activists to attend meetings in the EU Parliament and also invited*

an anti fracking film maker to the petitions committee in the Parliament to interview MEP's including myself. To me actions speak louder than words

*When asked to sign any document I read it carefully. Your document is about a number of issues as well as fracking including the TTIP agreement and investor state disputes. These are very complicated issues. In order to try and get some clarity I put down a question to the Commission in regard to its treatment of investor state disputes in the context of TTIP. Right now I cannot oppose the TTIP agreement unilaterally without knowing what will be in that agreement, if indeed we ever reach an agreement.*

*Therefore I can say the following. I oppose anti democratic measures in the negotiation process of TTIP but I cannot say I oppose the outcome without knowing what the outcome will be. I may oppose any final outcome on TTIP on a number of grounds but until we have an outcome I cannot say yes or no.*

*In regard to investor state disputes I am studying the Commission response and will need further clarification but I do have serious concerns about possible ramifications of their inclusion in any final deal. That is my considered and honest view. I therefore hope that my record of support for the anti fracking campaign both my actions and my words along with my response to the your declaration will be sufficient to prove my anti fracking credentials. I support the declaration with reservations on TTIP'*

### **Why is Pat the Cope Gallagher missing on the Frack Free Europe poster**

He did sign the declaration, but has [some reservations to the TIPP](#). ( same situation as Marian Harkin)

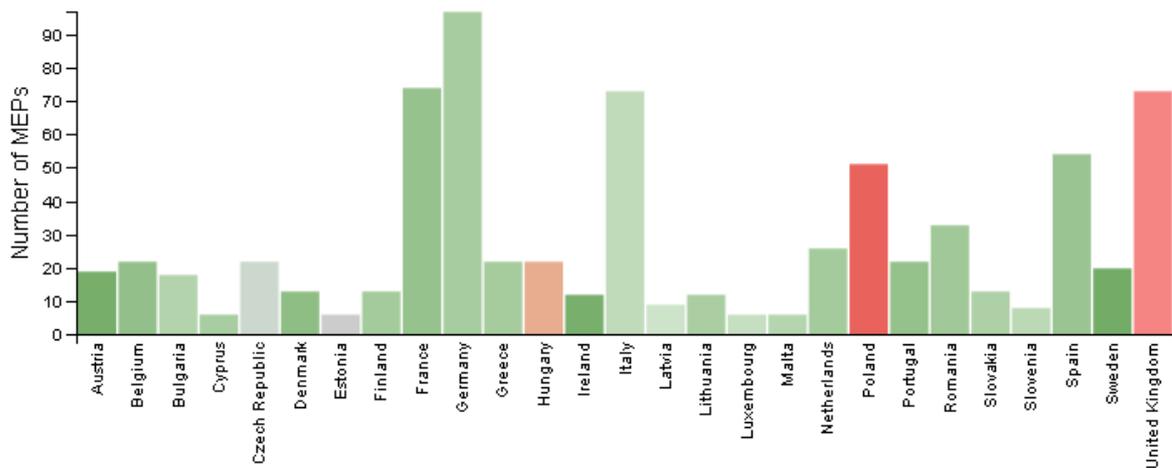
### **Why did Phil Prendergast?not signed the declaration?**



You can ask her – all info [here](#)

## Ireland's MEP position on fracking compared to other EU countries

Select your country by clicking on the bar chart



[http://votetracker.eu/fracking.html#bar\\_country](http://votetracker.eu/fracking.html#bar_country)

### Make up your mind to whom you give your vote to the local elections

Friends of the earth Ireland [launched a website 29 April.](#)

At present campaigners are asking the politicians to sign the pledge. (see also take action)

This [campaign just started](#), so keep an eye on the website and the [signed pledges](#)

An impression:

#### **Sligo**

Dónal Gilroy - FF

#### **Ballymote - Tubbercurry**

Margaret Gormley Ind

#### **Dublin**

William Whittle - FG

#### **West Clare**

Kevin Heapes - Green Party ( and campaigner)

#### **Leitrim**

Séadhna Logan

Philip Rooney

#### **Boyle**

Rachel Doherty - FF

**Sligo** Sean MacManus Sinn Fein councillor did answer but didn't sign (yet)

*I am somewhat surprised that you would feel it necessary to contact any Sinn Fein representative on this issue given that we seem to be the only political party who have clearly stated our opposition to fracking.  
We in Sinn Fein are clearly on record on our position on this issue both*

*locally and nationally. We have brought forward proposals against fracking in Leinster House and I have also been the proposer of motions to Sligo Co. Council against fracking.  
Hopefully this once again clearly shows our position on fracking and leads to a situation in which you will cast your No 1 vote for your local Sinn Fein candidate*

**Seamus O'Bolye –**

I have supported anti fracking groups in the past and will continue to do so in the future. and have attended protests in leitrim and sligo in the past cheers.

**Thomas Healy (SF)** did sign

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**Guy Verhofstadt, Juncker and Schultz position on fracking**

Reporter:international campaigner.

A couple of days ago, the leaders of the 4 main groups in the European Parliament participated in an election debate.

The debate is available here: <http://euranetplus-inside.eu/big-crunch-presidential-debate-on-april-29/>

There was a specific discussion on fracking, around minute 55' of the debate

The Greens are obviously against. The position of the EPP top candidate Juncker is surprisingly critical. Something to quote back to him and EPP candidates during the campaign and after the elections

This is an election period and that these guys would say anything to look as nice as possible. What's really important is to look at a certain number of facts that really show what's the position of these guys:

- **Guy Verhofstadt for Liberals/ALDE:**
  - Said yesterday: *"We'd consider fracking, if there is scientific proof that there are no bad consequences for the environment. [...] Europeans are also a little bit hypocritical, because we will import in the next couple of years, we will import gas, also from the US, which will include fracked gas"*
  - However, during his mandate as an MEP, he:
    - abstained for the vote on the Europe-wide moratorium on fracking
    - voted against a mandatory Environmental Impact Assessment for shale gas project (for exploration AND exploitation)
    - voted against an amendment allowing local authorities to ban the exploitation of unconventional fossil fuels
  - Conclusion: Who's hypocritical now ?
- **Jean-Claude Juncker for the EPP:**
  - said yesterday: *"I am not in favour of fracking, because we do not know about the real consequences. We don't know about the end consequences of fracking. Further research has to be done in that domain. For the time being, this technique is not sufficiently developed that we can give a European impetus to use that technology"*
  - However, even though he wasn't an MEP during the now ending mandate at the

European Parliament, keep in mind that only 4 out of the 268 EPP MEPs voted in favor of the moratorium on fracking.

- Conclusion: Juncker's statement is of course absolutely great, but really looks too good to be true, as it doesn't reflect AT ALL the position of his political family, especially from a guy like Juncker, very well-known for his very liberal views and his links with the private sector.
- **Martin Schultz for S&D:**
  - said yesterday: "*Fracking is not a solution. Fracking is an unknown technology, but we should be clear: It will happen. It is in the hands of the Member States. I am absolutely sure that there will be some Member States that allow fracking to happen and others not. The Americans have already decided. The real question is not, fracking yes or no. The real question is which strategy is the most efficient in making Europe independent from energy supply from dictatorships, from countries who could combine our energy dependency with political pressure that they make on us. The only way to achieve this on the long term is renewables and the combination of re-industrialisation and renewables. Energy efficiency and the development of low-consumption products. This is an industrial programme for Europe that we can export to other parts of the world. Combining sustainability with re-industrialisation.*"
  - It is difficult to analyse his true position regarding the fracking issue, mostly because, as the current President of the European Parliament, he did not take part to any vote that had a link with the issue. However, if I'm honest, the Socialist German MEPs were extremely supportive of the voting recommendations we sent (17 out of the 23 German Socialist MEPs voted in favor of the moratorium on fracking for instance).
  - Conclusion: Martin Schultz might have expressed his real views during this debate, as he notably very strongly promoted the German "*Energiewende*" model during the debate. However, Martin Schultz is also a pure politician, and the quite ambiguous position of his political group in Germany regarding fracking (welcoming the idea of a potential green fracking) should keep us cautious.

## TTIP and ISDS



Matt Wuerker, Politico

## **Still not loving ISDS: 10 reasons to oppose investors' super-rights in EU trade deals**

<http://frackingfreeireland.org/2014/04/24/still-not-loving-isds-10-reasons-to-oppose-investors-super-rights-in-eu-trade-deals/>

A joint **statement** - <http://frackingfreeireland.org/2014/04/30/ttip-joint-statement/>

A **video** here - <http://frackingfreeireland.org/2014/04/23/transatlantic-trade-and-investment-partnership-video/>

### **A study**

#### **Legal implications of the EU-US trade and investment partnership (TTIP)**

for the Acquis Communautaire and the ENVI relevant sectors that could be addressed during negotiations (PDF, 880 kB) => <http://bit.ly/1rIq6Ex>

#### **Abstract**

This study discusses the potential impact of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership agreement on the EU acquis in the areas of the environment and food safety. It recommends, in particular, that the European Parliament pay very close attention to the precise wording of provisions regarding the environment, food safety, and investment set out in the final text to ensure that both parties are able to maintain the environmental and consumer protection standards they deem appropriate, as provided for in the European Commission's negotiating mandate.

**More articles** : <http://frackingfreeireland.org/?s=ttip&submit=Search>