My value-for-money campaign

The Sunday Telegraph has said I am the “best value for money” MEP

I remain ranked 14th among all 753 Members of the European Parliament in overall parliamentary activity, by www.mepranking.eu. I received this rating because of “moderate to low expenses” and for “bombarding” EU officials with questions about their responsibilities. In addition, my “near-perfect attendance” is currently 98% during this parliamentary term, higher than other MEPs.

7th European Parliamentary term

| Attendance by Charles Tannock (98%) | Attendance by all MEPs (87.4%) |

Holding the EU’s finances to account

Supporting the Conservative position in negotiations with EU

I am doing my best to deliver on Prime Minister David Cameron’s brilliantly negotiated budget cap to the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2014-20. Some MEPs who voted down the deal claimed this was because they want a 100% cut, but ironically if they maintain this position it may lead to rejection of the agreement and allow increased annual budgets adjusted for inflation. The Parliament is also demanding the power to directly levy taxes and an end to the UK rebate. I firmly oppose this but do support more flexibility to shift money within headings and carry over unspent funds to future years. In the interests of transparency and democracy, I voted successfully to oppose holding the final June budget vote by secret ballot. I am also opposed to the Commission seeking an extra €11.2bn for the EU budget for 2013. I also voted on a major reform of the EU’s Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), during which very sadly the Greek Vice President Georgios Papastamkos collapsed and had a stroke. As a former hospital doctor, my somewhat rusty medical skills with three other MEP medical colleagues were called upon to administer life-saving first aid! On CAP, it is clear that some of the powerful farming lobby want to turn back the clock to the days of butter mountains, wine lakes and rampant market intervention, reinforcing my view that this anachronistic policy tool should be radically reformed.

Conservative MEPs for London are: Charles Tannock, Marina Yannakoudakis and Syed Kamall

Follow me on Twitter @Charles Tannock
Work representing London in foreign affairs continues

As ECR spokesman on foreign affairs and human rights I have been working on issues which matter to my London constituents. India and Bangladesh have recently featured - I defended both countries in Parliament from attacks by hostile MEPs. India should not be condemned for a terrible sex attack that could have happened anywhere, while I reiterated that Bangladesh should have the right to try alleged war criminals in its own territory and under its own legal system. I have continued work on my forthcoming human rights report on the Sahel region of Africa, made a well-received speech on Mali, and met both the Moroccan and Sahrawi sides of the long-running Western Sahara conflict. My report on Montenegro’s progress towards EU membership is due to be voted through in Strasbourg this month, and I continue to engage strongly in the Western Balkans. In particular, I have worked with MEPs from other parties to encourage Macedonian politicians to break their deadlock and build greater stability, for the name question to be settled with Greece and I welcome the EU-mediated talks between Serbia and Kosovo. I have also reiterated my support for Israel, and supported EU terrorist listing of Hezbollah and tightened sanctions against Iran. I made a hard-hitting speech on Syria, highlighting the widespread use of rape in its civil war, and met with the leader of the Free Syrian Army, who seeks weapons from EU countries for the fight against Assad. I am monitoring events closely in North Korea which alarmingly threatens war against the US and South Korea.

Being presented with a copy of the Balliol College calendar following an event which I hosted in the European Parliament to celebrate the 750th anniversary of my old Oxford College, Balliol.

With a group of A level students from St. Paul's Way Trust School in Tower Hamlets in London. I always enjoy speaking to students in their final year who have just reached voting age or are about to reach it to explain to them the role of the MEP and the EU.

At Conservative Campaign Headquarters for the Eastleigh by-election in February with a delegation of members of the Conservative Friends of India down from London to support the Conservative parliamentary candidate Maria Hutchings. I founded the Friends of India Intergroup in the European Parliament and remain a strong supporter of the world’s largest democracy.

The first three months has been a busy time for local by-elections in London and I have campaigned with Council candidates in Clapham Common, Lewisham Deptford, Islington, Camden and Kingston among others. Pictured here with activists in Harrow West.

At a BBC reception promoting a political show in the European Parliament with Andrew Neil, who gave a speech on transatlantic relations.

Top Tannock speeches this month

Charles on: the multiannual financial framework
http://goo.gl/s97VY

Charles on: immigration
http://goo.gl/G6pO1

Charles on: The situation in Syria
http://goo.gl/RgXJX

Charles on: EU policy towards China as a global partner
http://goo.gl/1fyyS

A selection of my speeches can also be viewed on YouTube at http://goo.gl/PRF35

and the text of my speeches can be accessed on my website.

You can also find me on Facebook

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