Reporting Back

Dr Charles Tannock

Your Conservative London Region MEP

Representing the UK, unlike UKIP

The Independent newspaper shows me to be top among the five hardest working UK MEPs. I was similarly cited by The Times. The analysis combined the attendance record of 55 MEPs from the four main parties, the number of parliamentary questions they asked, committee reports, motions and opinions they drafted, as well as signed written declarations, and compared this with what they claim in expenses.

During the 2009-14 Parliament, for example, my participation on roll call votes was 96%, compared to an average of 80% for all UK MEPs.

But the Independent revealed that UKIP leader Nigel Farage had the worst attendance rating of any UK politician in the European Parliament and still managed to cost the taxpayer over £600,000 in salary and allowances.

The Independent said: “Over the last parliament Mr Farage has not drafted or amended a single report and voted just 42% of the time.”

I have been honoured by the Taiwanese Government, having been awarded the Order of the Brilliant Star with Grand Cordon by President Ma.

London Conservative MEPs re-elected to lead the Capital

I am delighted to have been chosen to serve a fourth consecutive term representing London in the European Parliament, alongside Syed Kamall, although sadly we lost our hard working colleague Marina Yannakoudakis as Labour gained four MEP seats in London.

The Conservative popular vote held relatively strong at 24% with 19 seats for a party currently in government, but we did lose seven MEPs nationally.

In the local Borough elections, key councils were lost to Labour including Merton, Hammersmith & Fulham and Croydon, although the Tories did retain Barnet Council and Kingston Council from the Liberal Democrats.

The campaign was hard-fought and during the three weeks leading up to Polling Day I personally visited a total of 28 boroughs out of the Capital’s 32.

On the campaign trail with PM David Cameron

But Labour, with 20 MEP seats and 25% of the vote nationally, failed to make the gains expected of a party in domestic opposition, especially considering the near total wipe-out of the Lib Dems, reduced to one seat. One year ahead of the general election, Labour must be seriously concerned it has not decisively beaten the Conservatives in the last nationwide election before May 2015.

Speaking in a debate at the House of Commons on Russia and the Ukraine.

On a campaign walkabout for the local and European elections in Rayners Lane, Harrow with the Home Secretary Rt Hon Theresa May MP and fellow European candidates.

At the launch of Conservative Friends of Bangladesh, Camden Branch with guests including Simon Marcus Conservative PPC Hampstead and Kilburn and Richard Fuller MP.

Follow me on Twitter @Charles Tannock

Conservative MEPs for London are: Charles Tannock, Marina Yannakoudakis and Syed Kamall
Targeting abuse of the Birds Directive in Malta

I have written to Environment Commissioner Janez Potocnik to request an urgent meeting to discuss the situation with regard to the hunting of birds in the spring in Malta. Malta derogates from the EU Birds Directive to allow spring hunting of Turtle Dove and Quail using national framework legislation. Very strict conditions must be met to allow it and the derogation has been applied in this way for four successive years (2010-13). However, each year the Maltese government has sought to justify the derogation through inaccurate reports and unreliable - even misleading - data.

Meanwhile, BirdLife Malta, a society for the protection of birds and natural habitats in Malta, has observed the spring hunting season each year and has produced a series of reports that indicate there is systemic failure in the application of the derogation and the implementation of the Maltese framework legislation that allows it.

In view of this systemic failure, and the difficulty in providing remedy in Malta so that these failures can be properly addressed at the national level the European Commission is considering intervening to ensure that the abuses of the Birds Directive that take place in Malta are dealt with.

I, along with other MEPs and representatives from BirdLife Malta and BirdLife Europe, am urging that progress should be made in this regard.

I am a strong supporter of animal welfare and a member of the European Parliament Intergroup on Animal Welfare.

Addressing a gathering in London of Portuguese and Spanish speaking communities. There may be up to 500,000 people in London, often second and third generation, who speak Portuguese and 300,000 who are Spanish speaking.

At Battersea Dog’s Home I was briefed on the problem of illegally imported dogs travelling from the continent on faked EU pet passports.

Visiting Imperial College Students Union with its President David Goldsmith. I take a close interest in medical and scientific University research in London.

With Haringey Council Conservative candidates and Eric Pickles MP at the Hornsey and Wood Green Conservative Association Gala Dinner where I gave the vote of thanks as its President.

Out campaigning with London Mayor Boris Johnson and activists in Kingston.

Visiting Ambassador Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovi, Assistant Secretary General of NATO for Public Diplomacy, along with fellow MEP Davor Stier, at a meeting discussing the role of NATO in global security.

My speeches can also be viewed on the European Parliament website http://goo.gl/JTCVn

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

You can also find me on Facebook www.facebook.com/ctannock