Proven number one among MEPs in London and UK

I am the number one MEP in London and the UK judged on crucial key performance indicators by independent ranking website www.mepranking.eu. In this Parliament, my attendance record is 96%, the highest among all UK MEPs. The average attendance rate of both UK and London MEPs is only 80%. The Sunday Telegraph has said I am the MEP who gives taxpayers the best value for money. I received this rating because of “near-perfect attendance”, “moderate to low expenses” and for “bombarding” EU officials with questions about their responsibilities.

Africa human rights report received by EP

My report on the Sahel was voted through in Strasbourg this October. The most pressing part of the report deals with the grave disaster witnessed over the past 18 months in Mali where French-led forces intervened to prevent an Al Qaeda takeover. The over-riding theme of the report is for the EU to work with local actors to focus on security, stability and human rights. The EU already has a CSDP training mission in Mali, and a capacity-building mission in Niger, but human rights are markedly absent from the EU Sahel strategy. This is an area where more can be done, and I hope that the report makes some contribution to doing so. There is an urgent need to settle the conflict of Western Sahara and the issue of human rights remains vital for any settlement to the conflict. The region’s many desperate problems include radicalisation, female genital mutilation, child labour and child conscription, as well as arms, drugs and people-trafficking.

At a reception for the Conservative Friends of India with Dominic Grieve MP, Attorney-General, among many others. CF India recognises the successes and values of Britons of Indian heritage and advocates closer relations between India and Britain to the benefit of both nations. It also works to boost support for the Conservative Party from the British Indian community. I was President of the European Parliament Friends of India a decade ago.

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Welfare of pigs must be addressed by Member States

I am supporting a campaign which has highlighted widespread breaches of EU legislation on the welfare of pigs.

Campaign group ‘Compassion in World Farming’ presented a film in the European Parliament showing the results of an investigation carried out recently into 45 pig farms in six Member States. In total, 44 of the farms were in breach of EU animal welfare legislation that requires pigs to be provided with enrichment materials and that bans routine tail docking. These laws have been in force for 10 years.

Other breaches of the law were also seen in the film. Some pens were filthy with pigs being covered in excrement and flies. Sick and injured pigs were not treated; some were left to die in the pens.

I have signed an open letter to Health Commissioner Tonio Borg and Member State Ministers responsible for farm animal welfare. The letter states that there is clear evidence that many EU pig producers are infringing important provisions of Council Directive 2008/120 on the protection of pigs (the Pigs Directive) and that many Member States are failing to enforce these provisions. It is unacceptable that, over ten years since they came into force, many pigs are being reared in breach of key aspects of EU welfare legislation. I welcome the fact that the Commission is currently developing guidance on the Pigs Directive. However, some Member States are using this as an excuse for inaction.

In addition, in a number of Member States sow stalls are still being kept in sow stalls in breach of the Directive.

With the famous British actress and animal welfare campaigner Joanna Lumley at the European Parliament for the ‘Compassion in World Farming’ event regarding the widespread breaches of pig welfare laws in the EU.

Interviewed by Jewish News TV on the subject of Egypt. I reiterated my calls for a return to democratically elected government.

With activists campaigning in Harrow. I have recently been out and about campaigning and supporting events in Sutton & Cheam, Blackheath Westcombe, and West Wickham amongst others.

With the Conservative Friends of Bangladesh, of which I am a founder member, with its Chairman Anne Main MP.

As Vice-President of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, I attended a debate on the role for NATO and the EU post 2014. At a time of defence budget cuts, it is important to avoid duplication but EU CSDP missions will have an increasingly big part to play as the US withdraws its European presence, and focuses its efforts in the Asia-Pacific area.

Top Tannock speeches this month
Charles on: tobacco and E-cigs http://goo.gl/DFpsdQ
Charles on: the situation in Syria http://goo.gl/BHJLWu
Charles on: EU Customs Code http://goo.gl/MrEuZ1
Charles on: the regulation of financial services http://goo.gl/WPSbW9
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

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