I am the “best value for money” MEP according to the Sunday Telegraph

I am ranked 15th among all 753 Members of the European Parliament in overall parliamentary activity, by www.mepranking.eu. So far during this parliamentary term I have asked 368 Parliamentary questions, far higher than the average contributions made by other MEPs in the UK. I received this rating because of “near-perfect attendance of 97.4%”, “moderate to low expenses” and for “bombarding” EU officials with questions about their responsibilities.

Tannock condemns Europe budget as out-of-date and wasteful

The whole structure of the EU budget is based on a 1950s paradigm of food security and agricultural subsidy which no longer makes sense. One atrocious waste of money is keeping Strasbourg as the second European Parliament seat. Closing it would save approximately €1.4bn during a 7-year period. There is also a need to repatriate structural funds for richer countries and continue this source of funding for only the newer, poorer countries. Funds should instead be devoted to science and technology R&D and large, mainly communications, infrastructure projects as part of an EU pro-growth agenda. It is essential that the Common Agricultural Policy is reformed and cuts made to the central €6bn administrative budget, in particular restraint applied to the large low tax salaries paid to Eurocrats. I emphasized these points personally to the Prime Minister on a recent visit to Downing Street, ahead of his summit meeting about the EU budget. I fully support the UK position that the EU budget must be frozen and a veto used to prevent any increase in overall spending in real terms.

Season’s Greetings and a Happy New Year

In animated discussion with President Michel Martelly of Haiti, after his address to the European Parliament.

Follow me on Twitter @Charles Tannock
Working to promote London’s interests globally

Britain’s reach spans the globe, and London is a global city. As Conservative foreign policy spokesman in the European Parliament, my job is to investigate threats to our interests and to the communities that live here. To promote the UK, I have recently met over a dozen Presidents, Ministers and Ambassadors, and intervened on issues such as the East China Sea islands dispute, problems between Macedonia and Bulgaria, and the Turkish occupation of northern Cyprus. With British and other European forces on active service combating piracy, terrorism and kidnapping in the Horn of Africa, the European Parliament has approved my plan for closer strategic coordination amongst all our allies to bring stability to the region. Elsewhere in Africa, growing terrorism in the ‘Sahel’ region of the Sahara threatens a humanitarian disaster - so with UK aid in the frame, I will get the European Parliament to investigate the effects of human rights abuses and urge action. With Iceland, Croatia and other countries lining up to join the EU, I recently gave evidence to the House of Lords on how EU enlargement affects the UK, and on behalf of my constituents, chaired conferences on religious extremism, and on torture and sexual violence used during war. In the last few months I have asked parliamentary questions about issues in the Maldives, Bangladesh and Moldova, among others, and continued my involvement in many human rights campaigns, such as those for Tibet and the Ahmadiyya Muslim community. I also recently met LGBT campaigners from the Western Balkans.

With Mrs Madi Sharma, co-chair of the Women’s Economic and Social Think Tank, and former recipient of the UK Asian Woman of Achievement award, to discuss developing women’s rights globally, and in particular South Asia.

At the Corby by-election with Conservative Parliamentary candidate Christine Emmett. I have also been out recently in London campaigning or at fundraisers, including Croydon North, Ilford South, Bexleyheath, Harrow East, Feltham and Heston and myself hosted a European reception at the Carlton Club in honour of former MEP Richard Balf.

I am happy to support the animal welfare campaign to end the needlessly cruel practice of cutting off the fins from sharks to make sharks fin soup and then throwing the animals back into the sea for a slow and painful death.

A selection of my speeches can also be viewed on YouTube at http://goo.gl/1cMGW and the text of my speeches can be accessed on my website.

Top Tannock speeches this month

Charles on: The situation in Gaza http://goo.gl/dHRm4
Charles on: EU enlargement http://goo.gl/ZGidE
Charles on: The case of Malala Yousafzai http://goo.gl/bgCez
Charles on: Establishing an ACAA between the EC and Israel http://goo.gl/1cMGW

You can also find me on Facebook.

www.charlestannock.com
charles@charlestannock.com