

LONDON CONSERVATIVE

MEPs *in touch*

Conservatives vote for EU budget freeze

Your London Conservative MEPs were unanimous in opposing a hike in the EU budget in October. They were one of the only groups in the Parliament which recognised how inappropriate it is for the EU to increase its budget at a time when austerity measures are having to be implemented by governments across Europe. Even as the Euro zone is engulfed by crisis, the European Parliament voted in favour of an astonishing 5.23% increase in the EU's spending next year, which amounts to an extra €133 billion.

After a call to reduce the budget was rejected, your London Conservative MEPs supported calls for a freeze at current levels of spending, pointing out that savings could be found in the existing budget and that this money could be better spent and redirected to priority areas like research and development. While the other main political groups in the Parliament were not prepared to stop the increases in spending, even for one year, the Prime Minister David Cameron managed to negotiate a reduced budget increase of 2.02 per cent – close to a budget freeze in real terms.

Time to act to solve Euro zone crisis

Conservatives who argued for Britain never to join the single currency have been vindicated by recent events in the Euro zone. Nevertheless, the uncertainty in the Euro zone undermines confidence in investing in the entire EU, and the sooner the crisis is resolved

the better for Britain's economy as well as those of the Euro zone members.

It will take many years of determination over budgetary discipline to reduce public sector deficits, combined with either greater fiscal union of the Euro zone members or a transition back to old currencies, to solve the crisis. The root of the problem is that the single currency is principally a political project – a stepping stone towards full European integration – and its

architects invited many countries to join the currency before they even met the Maastricht convergence criteria, and the stability and growth pact aimed at Euro zone budgetary discipline was ignored even by France and Germany.

Treaty changes to enable further and faster integration of the Euro zone economies will provide opportunities for the UK government to negotiate repatriation of certain powers and redefine our relationship with Brussels. ■



London Conservative MEP Team Charles Tannock, Syed Kamall, Marina Yannakoudakis,



Charles is Conservative Foreign Affairs and Human Rights Spokesman and ECR Coordinator, and Vice-President of the EP delegation to the NATO PA. He is EP permanent 'Rapporteur' on Montenegro. Charles is a member of the European Cancer Patient Coalition and the EP Intergroup on Animal Welfare, and EP adviser to the UK Overseas Territory Association.



Syed is the only London MEP on the Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee of the European Parliament working on financial regulation which affects the City of London. He also sits on the International Trade and Legal Affairs committees.



Marina is Conservative Spokesman on Women's Rights and Gender Equality as well as ECR Co-ordinator in the Women's Rights Committee. She is a member of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety where she is the committee's contact point with the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC).

Charles Tannock, putting London on the map



Charles visiting the UCL Institute of Ophthalmology

Championing Medical Research

With Mayor Boris Johnson's championing of the academic successes of our London institutions of higher education, and as a graduate of the University of London, Charles was very pleased to have the opportunity to be taken on a tour of the renowned UCL Institute of Ophthalmology attached to Moorfields Eye Hospital. As a former NHS Consultant, Charles strongly supports medical and scientific research in the Parliament and better access to EU funding through the 7th Framework Program.

Charles co-hosted and spoke at an event held in the European Parliament with the European Academy of Dermatology and the Euromelanoma Group to raise awareness of the rising incidence of skin cancer. Skin cancer is a visible cancer, and one of the easiest to prevent and cure. Nevertheless, 14,000 Europeans die of melanoma each year. The event was very successful, and included a screening of 137 MEPs and assistants.

Charles co-hosted an event in the European Parliament to celebrate 100 years of the Israeli Medical Association. The event recognised the enormous contribution of the Jewish community to global medicine and research.

Charles welcomed a delegation of medical Professors from the United European Gastroenterology Foundation to the Parliament in order to discuss their work, in particular more cooperation at EU level in order to reduce pancreatic and colorectal cancer in Europe.

Party Conference

Over the last six months Charles has continued to help Conservative candidates in many council by-elections and to meet constituents across London. He also had a busy time at the Conservative Party conference in Manchester where, among other events, he spoke at the "Publish What You Pay" seminar, hosted by Tobias Elwood MP, which aims to fight government corruption and ensure transparency in the extractive industries globally. He co-hosted a "Friends of Cyprus" reception with Theresa Villiers MP, and also a fringe event with the Conservative Friends of Bangladesh in the presence of the Bangladeshi High Commissioner, which touched on social action projects in the country.

Supporting London businesses

Though the City of London is Britain's biggest money-maker, manufacturing industry is still very important, even in a modern city like London, and needs expanding. Charles has been lucky enough to be taken on tours around two of London's biggest remaining factories; the Tate and Lyle sugar refinery in Silvertown and the Fuller's Brewery in Chiswick. He was briefed on the problems of the EU sugar regime, which favours sugar beet over cane sugar, as well as red tape affecting the beer industry. He was also shown round a B&Q store in Wandsworth, where he was briefed on the firm's corporate social responsibility programs, and the regulatory burden from government that they face as a large employer. Charles is committed to getting the best deals for London businesses in the European Parliament. Charles attended a function hosted by Sun Mark Ltd, a London-based private business, to celebrate it winning the prestigious Queen's Award for Enterprise for the third year in a row and will shortly visit its factory in west London.



Charles visiting the B&Q Store in Wandsworth

High Speed II

Charles was glad of the opportunity to discuss the impact on London of the High Speed Rail II project with Theresa Villiers MP, Minister of Transport, at the ECR conference in Windsor. Charles supports the project, which would see the construction of a high speed rail link between London and Birmingham and beyond, but is concerned about the impact it could have on his constituents, given the proposed route.

Foreign Affairs

Charles is a firm believer in reducing unnecessary EU spending and is committed to no budget increases for the new European External Action Service under High Representative Baroness Ashton which is yet to prove it provides value to the taxpayer. To illustrate his prudent approach, last year Charles was named by the Sunday Telegraph "the best value for money" of all the UK MEPs. As the Chairman of the EP-Taiwan Friendship Group, Charles led a delegation of MEPs to Taipei, where they met senior Taiwanese politicians including President Ma.

Charles went on a Parliamentary delegation to the African Union HQ in Addis Ababa. He met the Ethiopian Prime Minister and discussed with him concerns about democracy and human rights in his country, the fight against terrorism and piracy, and the issue of the re-recognition of Somaliland, which he went on to visit.



Charles in Addis Ababa with Prime Minister Meles Zenawi of Ethiopia

Charles was also part of an ECR Group delegation to Colombia in order to discuss the EU Free Trade Agreement with the Colombian President and Ministers. He combined this with a trip to Panama, where he was able to meet the British Ambassador there and also the President of the Latin American Parliament. He also met local British businessmen as the UK is the largest investor in Panama.

Charles has been active in many foreign policy and human rights areas. These range from his role as rapporteur on Montenegro and visiting Macedonia in the EU enlargement process, to meeting President Barzani of Kurdistan to discuss the Middle East situation including stability in Iraq and nuclear proliferation in Iran. He hosted a seminar on global religious extremism in the European Parliament with the European Ahmaddiya Communities, which was attended by over 400 guests. Charles was privileged to attend a working lunch with European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso and a government delegation led by Europe Minister, David Lidington MP, to discuss UK concerns regarding EU foreign and defence policy. ■



Charles attended as a patron the "Children of Latin America" charitable fund-raiser in Richmond for disadvantaged children in the Dominican Republic, one of the poorest countries in the Western hemisphere, and severely affected by the global economic crisis.

Syed Kamall, working for a greater London

Celebrating one nation

Syed has become a founder member of the One Nation campaign which is encouraging schools to fly the British flag and to sing the National Anthem at their end of summer term assembly. "I want all British schoolchildren to be inspired by British values and the Great British story," said Syed. "Although we are a country of all religions, cultures and hues, we are one nation. It doesn't matter whether you can trace your ancestry back to the times of Sir Walter Raleigh and William Shakespeare or whether your forefathers travelled over oceans and continents to reach these shores. If you love Great Britain and cherish its values, then you are British and have as much of a stake in this nation as anyone else."

UK sold short by new financial regulations

David Cameron is backing calls by Syed Kamall for the European Commission to stop the unnecessary barrage of new financial regulations being imposed on the City of London. Syed spent much of October and November in the Parliament's Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee attempting to resist the new Short Selling Regulation which bans the use of credit default currency swaps. Yet European Parliamentarians voted for the restrictions in the vain hope that it would somehow stop the markets from casting a judgement on Euro zone governments that do not pay their debts.

Social action in Bangladesh

As part of the Conservative Party Social Action Project Maja, Syed travelled to Bangladesh and joined Conservative Party Co-Chairman Sayeeda Warsi, MPs and candidates to help refurbish a school and to support a sports project run by the London Tigers which was founded by Bangladeshis living in London. Syed was invited to give a presentation to local politicians, journalists and businesspeople on the role of civil society in reducing dependence on the state.

Supporting local London businesses

Syed recently joined Leader of Croydon Council Mike Fisher, local MP Gavin Barwell and London Assembly Member Steve O'Connell at the launch of the Croydon Conservatives Business Forum. Syed spoke of his work on the Economic and Monetary Affairs and International Trade Committees and explained to the audience of local businessmen and businesswomen how EU legislation is made. He also discussed ideas for helping small businesses to increase exports. Please contact Syed if you would like him to speak to your local Conservative Business Club.

Below: Syed at the Croydon Conservative Business Forum



Above: Campaigning with local councillors in November's Aldborough by-election



Above: Syed with Trade Minister Lord Green (second from the right) and other British MEPs

Securing finance for start ups and social projects

New proposals to make it easier for venture capital funds to finance start ups and for investors to put their money into social projects are now on the table in the European Parliament. Syed will be working hard to ensure that innovative small businesses in the UK can benefit from the Venture Capital and Social Investment Fund Directives.

Best of London exhibition

Syed is organising an exhibition in the European Parliament that will showcase the best of what London has to offer. The exhibition will celebrate London as one of the great world cities – a global centre for commerce, finance, entertainment, art, fashion, finance and education. Syed is in discussions with a number of potential exhibitors including the Heritage of London Trust and London 2012 Olympic organisers. If you know of a London-based organisation that might be interested in taking part in the exhibition, which is scheduled for 2012, please contact Syed.

Hosting the British Trade Minister

Syed recently chaired a meeting in Brussels between British MEPs and Lord Green, Minister of State for Trade and Investment. Lord Green came to brief British MEPs on the state-of-play in trade negotiations around the world from a British perspective. Although the European Union negotiates agreements on the behalf of Member States, it is essential that British MEPs work in close cooperation with the British Government to ensure that our interests are defended at the EU level. It is all too easy for trade agreements to be undermined by the protectionist tendencies of other EU countries. Syed has been appointed the Rapporteur for the forthcoming EU-Singapore Free Trade Agreement, which means that he will be leading negotiations on behalf of the European Parliament. Syed will be looking to ensure that British companies enjoy fair and free access to markets in Singapore. He will also be following the EU-Malaysia agreement for the European Conservatives and Reformist Group and is working with other MEPs for an EU-Japan agreement. ■



Above: Project Maja opening of school in Sylhet



Left: At the Ealing Southall Conservatives Dinner

Marina Yannakoudakis – Delivering for London

London calling

Marina has been out on the doorstep for Conservative council candidates across London this year. From Harrow to Redbridge and Bromley to Islington Marina has been knocking on doors with local Conservatives. Marina has enjoyed meeting constituents and supporters and talking to them about local and European issues. She has been out and about across London with the Mayor at events with local associations. "I enjoy meeting Boris to discuss EU issues as well as supporting his work to grow the London economy while keeping council tax low," said Marina.

"This pointless levy (EU Tobin Tax) would lose more money than it raises...it would be both a tax on pensioners and a jobs killer."
Marina in *City AM*, 10 November

£2.5 billion baby

Last year Marina warned that the European Parliament's proposal for a fully-paid maternity leave of at least 20 weeks would actually damage the job prospects of young women, with small businesses in particular thinking twice before employing them. The over-reaching, expensive and unnecessary proposals have been estimated at costing £2.5 billion to the UK taxpayer. Marina blocked the proposals because the Maternity Leave Directive is not right for women, it is not right for business and it is not right for EU member governments in this time of economic crisis. "What the European economy really needs is to be more flexible, more competitive and more realistic," said Marina.



Marina with Bob Stewart MP and the candidate for October's Shortlands by-election, David Jeffreys

Promoting women in SMEs

Marina is backing David Cameron's new scheme to fund 5,000 mentors for new and existing female entrepreneurs who want to start or grow their own business. With so much untapped business potential in the UK and the EU, Marina has spearheaded the issue of female entrepreneurship through the European Parliament. As a mother and a businesswoman, Marina knows exactly how hard setting up a small business can be. Marina's report calls for fair access for women to start-up and expansion grants, and targeting women with the right information including through mentorship schemes. She believes we need to a new generation of women entrepreneurs who can juggle their own aspirations to succeed alongside their commitment to their family.

"A flexible working approach is needed to give women the backing to rise through company ranks while still being able to raise a family."
Marina in *The Daily Mail*, 14 October

Protecting children

The EU needs to act to combat the appalling sexual abuse of children. Marina has worked on a European Parliament report which protects children from sexual abuse, blocks access to child pornography and criminalises the sexual grooming of children. Her proposals were based on the "3Ps" of Prevention, Protection and Prosecution. Marina supported the blocking and



As a London businesswoman, Marina knows the importance of the City to the capital's economy. She recently invited Conservative City Future, a group of City professionals over to Brussels for a visit

deletion of child pornography content online. She believes that everything should be done to stop people accessing illegal images, including blocking. "We need to ensure a zero-tolerance approach to child pornography," said Marina. Marina has organised a number of events with the NSPCC and other child-protection charities.

"Patients are putting their health at risk by asking for antibiotics when they are not required."
Marina in *The Independent*, 19 November

Putting patients first

Recent EU proposals to modernise the Professional Qualifications Directive has seen Marina push to make language testing compulsory for all EU doctors coming to work and practise in the UK. In her work on the public health committee, Marina makes patient safety a priority; "If doctors can't communicate they cannot treat patients safely. The patient must come first." ■

"Healthcare is the duty of the British government and not the EU"
Marina in *The Daily Telegraph*, 24 October



Marina with Mayor of London Boris Johnson



Marina with Geoffrey Van Orden MEP



Marina with Foreign Secretary William Hague and European Conservatives and Reformists Group Chairman Jan Zahradil

If you're interested in receiving a monthly newsletter by email please register your email address on Marina's website