

Delivering for Britain

News from your London Conservative MEP team

Autumn 2006

Working together for London

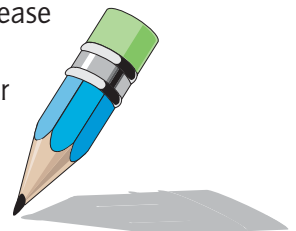
Following a successful Bournemouth Conservative party conference morale is high amongst all London activists as well as your London MEPs who all participated in various fringe events.

In the European Parliament we are now getting ready for the arrival of MEP colleagues from Romania and Bulgaria on 1st January 2007. This will end the current wave of enlargement which since 2004 has proved to be an economic and political success for the new countries as well as the UK. Charles Tannock has been following this process closely on the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Many large pieces of legislation are proceeding through the parliament including the REACH Regulation on safer use of Chemicals which John Bowis has been following on the Environment Committee where UK Conservative MEPs have struck a balance between important human safety and environmental concerns as well as the interests of business and animal welfare. The Services Directive and Television Without Frontiers Directive have been watched closely by Syed Kamall on the Internal Market Committee. He is campaigning to remove the elements of the Television Without Frontiers directive that would damage London broadcasters and creative media.



Our **One Seat for the European Parliament** campaign to end the Strasbourg circus and waste of taxpayers money has been a great success. More than 1 million signatures from all over Europe have been raised. If you have not already done so please sign the petition at **www.oneseat.eu** as the greater the number the greater the embarrassment this will cause the French government. ■



So – sign up on www.oneseat.eu



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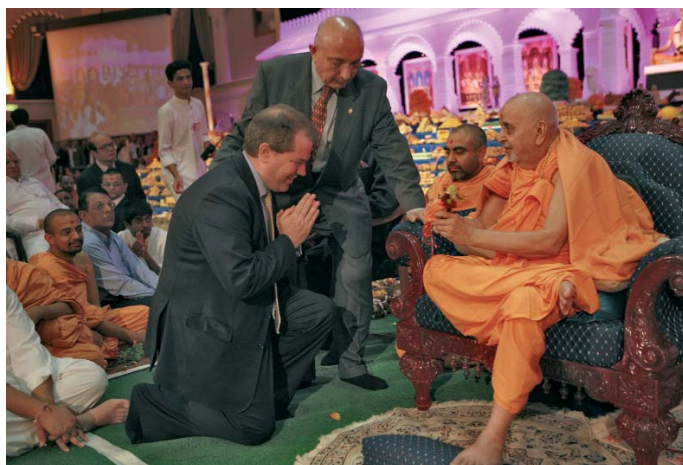
Charles Tannock

Role as Foreign Affairs and Human Rights Spokesman

As Vice-Chairman of the Human Rights sub-committee, Charles recently held a press conference on alleged "organ harvesting" in Chinese forced labour camps. He spoke at an Iran-EU conference and met a delegation of Iranian MPs. He was created a knight of the "order for merits" by President Yushchenko of Ukraine, for supporting Ukrainian democracy and international relations. He spoke in his capacity as Chairman of the "Friends of India" at a conference on Kashmir attended by President Musharraf of Pakistan aimed at solving one of the the world's oldest territorial disputes. He also recently led, as Shadow Rapporteur of the European Parliament for the Kashmir Report, a delegation of cross-party MEPs to India visiting Jammu and Kashmir. As the Parliament's European Neighbourhood Policy Rapporteur, Charles recently met the Speaker of the Moldovan Parliament and the Foreign Minister of Georgia to discuss the prospects for their countries within this policy. He has co-authored recent Resolutions on Bangladesh and the Middle East peace process.

Ensuring a generous deal for UK Travellers

His Report on VAT and Excise Duty travel allowances for passengers entering the EU from 3rd countries outside the Union has been passed almost unanimously during the November plenary session and is now before the Council of Ministers.



Charles had the unique honour of being blessed by worldwide Hindu spiritual leader Pramukh Swami Maharaj in the London Neasden Temple ahead of Charles' visit to India



Charles and John Randall MP laying wreaths at the Battle of Britain Commemoration Service at RAF Uxbridge.

London Based Activities

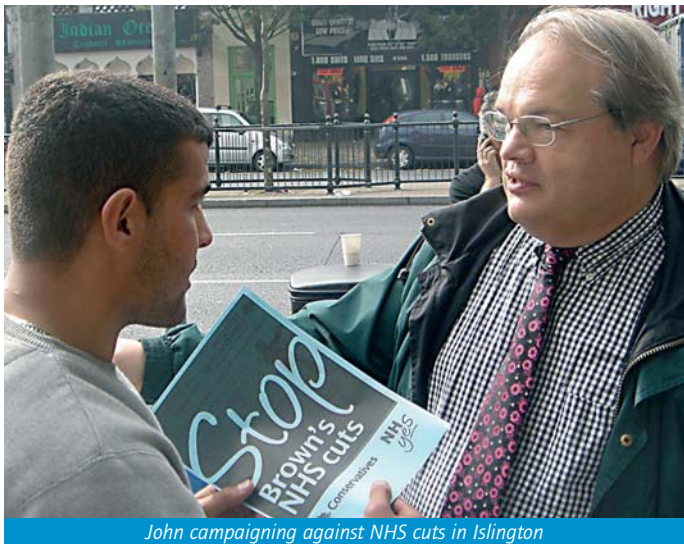
He gave evidence at a cross party hearing in the House of Lords on EU health policy and to the House of Lords EU Select Committee on EU future enlargement. Charles spoke at the Bournemouth Party Conference launch of the newly formed Conservative Friends of Bangladesh, where he sits on the Executive Committee Chaired by Ann Main MP. There are an estimated 150,000 people of Bangladeshi origin living in the London Region and till recently there have been no formal Conservative Party links with this community.

He addressed the annual Conservative ladies conference in Croydon alongside Andrew Pelling MP and participated in the Conservative NHS Action day in Islington. ■



Charles alongside Nirj Deva MEP receiving the Freedom of the City of Cartagena de Indias from the Mayor for supporting Colombian democracy. Charles led an international election observer team of MEPs to Colombia during the Presidential elections

Big Smoke, Small Particles



John campaigning against NHS cuts in Islington

"Just walk down Oxford Street or Marylebone Road if you want to know why we need stronger measures against air pollution. Children, the elderly and people with respiratory, heart and lung problems are at risk in many parts of London."

John Bowis has been campaigning for strong controls on air pollution, which can be so damaging to health and the environment. The London smogs of the fifties may be a thing of the past, thanks to the demise of coal fires, but there is still the hidden danger of fine particulate matter in the air known as PM10. In fact, it has been estimated that over 1,000 Londoners died prematurely last year due to PM10 air pollution.

There is growing awareness of the need to monitor even finer particulates known as PM2.5 – British research shows these lower life expectancy by 8 months. Fine particulates can be breathed more deeply into the lungs and therefore can be more damaging to health.

Recently the European Parliament voted on the Cleaner Air for Europe Directive, however, it weakened some of the limits already accepted by national governments. "Conservative MEPs will continue to push for tougher limits on polluting particles, especially PM2.5," says John. "London does not have to wait for European legislation, we need to act now in tackling pollution at source."

Reaching for a less toxic future

John Bowis is at the heart of the final negotiations to secure a deal on the new chemicals regime called REACH (Registration, Evaluation and Authorisation of Chemicals). In line with David Cameron's commitment to a greener policy agenda, John has

been pressing for a stronger role for the substitution of the most dangerous chemical substances with safer alternatives, where they exist. The Conservatives have also voted for a series of amendments that will minimise animal tests, by supporting and validating non-animal test methods. The legislation is due to come into force early next year after years of negotiation.

Breast Cancer

275,000 women in the European Union are diagnosed with breast cancer each year. It is the biggest killer of women aged between 35 and 59, with an average 88,000 women in the EU dying from the disease each year. Men are also affected, with around 1,000 men in the European Union dying each year.

John Bowis has been instrumental in raising awareness of the disease in the European Parliament. He is co-author of a resolution adopted by the European Parliament that urges the European Commission and Member States to invest more in vocational training for specialist nurses, carry out research into how breast cancer can be prevented and provide more support for those receiving treatment.

"Breast cancer sufferers and those who care for them should receive more support to deal with the physical and social burden of this devastating disease. This particularly applies to men, who may only form a small proportion of cases, but require specialist services," says John. *"Too many men cannot cope with having breast cancer. They cannot cope, not just with the disease, but with going home to their families and telling them they have got breast cancer. They cannot cope with going down to the pub to tell their mates they have got breast cancer. Some – and 'some' is too many – kill themselves rather than face the consequences of their diagnosis."* ■



John supporting the Friends of the Earth Climate Change campaign



John discussing Malaria at the Coalition Against Malaria stand at the Conservative Party Conference in Bournemouth

Working for a greater London

Supporting London's creative industries

The EU is currently working on a new directive for the media sector dubbed Television Without Frontiers and Syed helped steer the proposals through the Internal Market Committee as the *shadow rapporteur*. He secured support for a number of amendments to strengthen self regulation and remove unnecessary restrictions on new media and internet-based services so that London's media industry can continue to thrive.

Working for a better deal on shoes and clothes

Syed has backed British retailers' and consumer groups' opposition to EU tariffs on shoes from China and Vietnam. Syed says *"These measures will hurt consumers and retailers, and damage the competitiveness of European companies that have taken advantage of globalisation and outsourced production."* He

is also working with the London fashion industry to seek compensation for companies that lost contracts as result of last summer's 'bra wars' saga.



Syed being interviewed by the BBC

Protecting your right to work

The European Court of Justice has delivered a setback to British workers wanting to put in longer hours. It ruled that managers must force staff to leave work in order to comply with rules under the Working Time Directive – whether the worker wants to or not. *"While nobody should be forced to work longer hours if they do not want to, I don't want to see Londoners prevented from achieving their ambitions through hard effort"*, says Syed who is working with several employer bodies to highlight the impact of the ruling on workers and businesses.

www.syedkamall.com



Syed signing up another supporter to the campaign for one European Parliament venue in Brussels

Telling Londoners about the EU

A poll commissioned by Syed shows that the British want more information about the European Union. He has responded by producing a pocket guide which will be distributed at Underground stations across London and publicised in the local media. Syed has been speaking at a number of schools, colleges, universities, public events and Party functions across London. If you would like a copy of Syed's pocket guide, DVD or would like to book him for a speaking engagement, please contact him at:

syed.kamall@europarl.europa.eu ■



Syed with East Lewisham Conservatives

For more information on London Conservative MEPs visit www.conservatives.com/meps