

# Sajjad Karim MEP

## Reporting Back

Autumn 2014



Conservative MEP for the North West \* Legal Affairs Spokesperson \* Chairman Parliamentary Conduct Committee

## 10 YEARS STANDING UP FOR THE NORTH WEST IN EUROPE



### Thank you!

Dear Friends

Since the European election Count at Manchester Town Hall on 25th May this year things have been very busy and this newsletter will update you.

It's a great regret that we didn't manage to hold our 3rd North West seat and return our excellent Kevin Beaty but I'm pleased to say we keep in contact and he is already looking to the future with new plans on the go.

Saj with Regional Officers, Rob Bailey and Pam Hall, Team Karim and supporters immediately after the Manchester count.

I am very conscious that without the support of so many Conservative Party members and supporters across the whole of the North West, I would not have been re-elected to serve a third term representing our wonderful region, back in the European Parliament.

I shall always be grateful and appreciative of the personal time and finance so generously given, not just over the past five years, but those ahead.

Next year we face another battle. We must work to ensure that David Cameron is able to continue to build our country's economic turnaround and can give our people the pledged referendum on the EU in 2017.

I have recorded a video message of thanks which you can view here: [http://youtu.be/ooye\\_QDN-Mg](http://youtu.be/ooye_QDN-Mg)

### DON'T FORGET YOUR BEST TRAVEL ACCESSORY

Many people setting off on business trips and long awaited holidays forget a vital holiday essential. Sajjad is warning people travelling to other European countries to check their European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) is valid.

Sajjad pointed out "The cards last five years so millions of these cards expire every year. Obtaining a new or replacement card is free but there are various scam sites that are trying to charge for the card, so don't be taken in."



The card will ensure free or reduced-cost medical treatment throughout the EU for UK citizens. Without them holidaymakers risk paying huge bills if they need medical care whilst abroad.

"Scam websites offering an 'express service' to obtain the card have been set up and charge a fee" said Sajjad, "These websites will not speed-up the application process and you should apply through the official NHS site and get the card for free. The card is easy to obtain but allow at least 10 working days between making the application and travelling."

Sajjad has also reminded people not to forget the EU-wide emergency number: "Don't forget that if you dial 112 in any EU country, including from your mobile phone, you can reach the police, ambulance or fire services, with access to English speaking operators. It could save your life while travelling abroad."

### NEWS FROM THE 8TH EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



**Strasbourg** - MEPs returned to Strasbourg in June for the first week of the new Parliament, the 8th since 1979.

The Conservative Group remains committed to working to cutting the number of Strasbourg sessions and ultimately scrapping this un-necessary travelling circus which costs the taxpayer over €102 million every year. Currently once a month 766 MEPs, 3,000 staff and trucks carrying documents and equipment all decamp to Strasbourg in France for three days.

Think what else that money could buy in terms of genuine investment to make Europe more competitive and more prosperous. It also needlessly pumps 20,000 tonnes of carbon into the atmosphere.

**The New ECR Group** - The European Conservative and Reformist Group, which the Conservatives in the European Parliament are key members of, is now the third largest in the Parliament with 70 MEPs representing 15 countries. Saj's fellow Conservative MEP Syed Kamall was elected as Leader of the ECR Group and has said he wants the ECR to become an exciting hub for new ideas for reform.

From EurActiv: "The ECR, which has replaced ALDE as the third largest group in Parliament (with 70 MEPs), took over a significant number of key jobs. 'ECR is Eurosceptic, but is playing by the Parliament's rules,' said Alain Lamassoure. It now has a good bargaining position for the negotiations between parliamentary groups. Thanks to greater influence, it has secured chair of the interior market and consumer protection committee and the security and defence committee."

**President of the European Commission** - Immediately after the European election speculation as to who would be the next President of the European Commission reached fever pitch. Ex PM of Luxembourg, Jean-Claude Juncker, the clear favourite, was opposed by David Cameron as not the right man for the top job at the European Commission and our Prime Minister fought hard to oppose his election which had to be endorsed by MEPs.

Attending the Parliament in Brussels Juncker faced tough questioning from Conservative MEPs on how he will bring growth and reform to Europe. In July MEPs voted to approve Juncker as President of the European Commission by 422 votes, easily exceeding the minimum 376 needed.

The ECR Group led the opposition to his appointment and members did not feel able to vote for him. But where he puts forward an agenda that leads the EU towards the future, to the challenges of a new era, then he can look to us for support.

### Out and about with Sajjad



Chorley Conservatives survey local residents' opinions with candidate Rob Loughenbury



Chester Roadtrip 2014



Lancashire In Business - EU: In or Out? Debate

Coast FM Interview with Southport's own Mike Swift



## PUTTING THE NORTH WEST FIRST

Conservative MEPs for the North West are Dr Sajjad Karim MEP LLB (Hons) and Jacqueline Foster MEP

