



Conservatives
in the European Parliament



European Conservatives
and Reformists Group

PUTTING THE NORTH WEST FIRST

Autumn / Winter 2012



Sajjad Karim MEP LLB (Hons)
Conservative Legal Affairs Spokesman

Other Conservative MEPs for the North West are Sir Robert Atkins MEP and Jacqueline Foster MEP

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Dear Friends

2012 is drawing to a close and it's been another momentous year for us all.

We are still suffering Labour's legacy of overspending and high borrowing. Whilst our plan is working and our economy is starting to heal, the return to economic growth is a hard and arduous journey which has been costly to many North West people.

Our members and supporters have been at the forefront of tacking the flack and fallout from the tough decisions our Conservative led Government has had to take over the past 2 years. As a parliamentarian I know how difficult it has been and some of you have paid a heavy price and lost council seats through no fault of your own.

We've cleared a quarter of the deficit left by Labour in our first two years in office, and the private sector has created over one million new jobs.

It's good news to see yet another increase in the number of people in work and to see unemployment fall yet again. The fall in youth unemployment is particularly welcome, although we're not complacent about the scale of the challenge still facing us.

Britain is in a global race today. To succeed in that race we must deal with the deficit so we pay our way in the world and make



In Lancashire with new Party Chairman Grant Shapps MP. - Nov 2012

*UK
Unemployment
fell by 49,000
in three months
to October.
The North
West
accounted for
more than half
that figure,
here it fell by
26,000*

Britain an aspiration nation – where people who work hard can get on in life.

2013 will bring its own challenges but as this is my last printed newsletter for this year I want to take the opportunity to thank you all for your support through this year as in previous years. I am so appreciative of the warm welcome I receive from members in my travels

across the 75 Westminster constituencies that make up my North West constituency. Please do contact me if I can support you in any way – campaigning, fundraising or taking up issues on your behalf.

Sending season's greetings to you all.

Sajjad H Karim MEP LLB (Hons)



Small and medium-sized British and European businesses will soon be unshackled from 'unnecessary' and 'burdensome' regulations.

Sajjad is behind new legislation aimed at freeing up businesses.

Sajjad said, "The EU should be the most competitive and dynamic market in the world. We need the entrepreneurial spirit unleashed. After all it is the small and medium sized enterprises, or SMEs, that will lead us out of the current economic climate.

"Too often the EU introduces well meaning but utterly pointless legislation on the small businessman."

Sajjad's proposals were voted into law in September.

From now on the EU cannot introduce new regulations, or red tape, on Europe's smallest businesses unless it can prove the proposed rule is truly beneficial and necessary.

The new report also gives power back to national parliaments and seeks to reduce influence from Brussels.

Micro-enterprises, companies with fewer than 10 employees, account for 90% of all businesses in the EU and are widely seen as the catalyst for economic growth.

It may sound like a dull subject but a recent survey by Grant Thornton of small businesses highlighted red tape as the biggest concern amongst entrepreneurs.

"I was very pleased to hear that your report about better legislation was adopted by the European Parliament, and would like to thank you for your continued efforts to promote better regulation within the Parliament."

Rt Hon Michael Fallon MP
Minister of State for Business & Enterprise

**"After 13 wasted years of Labour legislating and regulating all it could we must cut red tape at every level of government."
David Cameron**



Cutting Red Tape for UK PLC

- GET INVOLVED -

THE TOP TEN WORST REGULATIONS

Do you run a small or medium sized business? If you do please speak out against over-regulation from the EU by taking part in a consultation launched to find the “top 10 most restrictive legislative acts for SMEs.”

Sajjad is busy meeting with businesses and their representatives from across the region and convincing them to engage in this debate.

Sajjad said, “We should ensure government leaves

business alone as much as it can rather than meddling and micro-managing.”

Consultation Online At:
<http://tinyurl.com/9228kbh>



SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES

Sajjad is calling on the power industry to be more sympathetic when choosing sites for new biomass electricity generating plants.

“Biomass clearly has a future as its burns timber and other fuels often diverted from landfill sites, but, we need to ensure that they are constructed on appropriate sites and we listen to the views of local people.”

There have been two instances where local opinion is clearly against such proposals.

In Barrow-in-Furness, Centrica Energy wanted to develop on an existing gas powered station. Sajjad met with Centrica and worked with local Councillors like Ray Guselli to emphasise local concerns. In October the plans were dropped.

Meanwhile in Davyhulme, Manchester, similar proposals have also met with local opposition. Trafford Council turned down the



Photo: Sajjad meets Trafford Executive Councillor for Safer Stronger Communities Jonathan Coupe and Cllr Lisa Cooke.

application but its now gone to appeal.

Sajjad has once again joined with local Councillors and has expressed concerns to the Environment Agency. He also encouraged residents to play their part in the Public Enquiry.

Sajjad concluded, “Our Local residents and councils have my fullest support. I believe that decisions on such developments should be taken as closely as possible to those most affected.”

More details
www.sajjadkarim.eu

“Sajjad has visited and listened to the community and the Breath Clean Air Group with compassion and empathy. He has taken the time to see the proposed development site and shared our concerns.”
Cllr Lisa Cooke

“Many thanks for your support during what was, at times, a difficult arena to work in. You took the trouble to visit and I suspect led to others supporting us and your help will not be forgotten, we cannot thank you enough”.
Cllr Ray Guselli

AUDITING THE AUDITORS

As Legal Affairs Spokesperson, Sajjad is currently steering the European Commission's contentious planned reform of the audit market through the European Parliament.

“We are suffering from an erosion of confidence in the audit process and a suspicion in some quarters that some companies enjoy too cosy a relationship with the firms that audit them.”

Saj's report seeks to introduce mandatory rotation whereby audit firms can inspect a company's books for a maximum of 25 years. This avoids familiarity between the auditor and the audited company, yet avoids disruption and high costs from the European Commission's proposals of rotation every 6 years.

The majority of FTSE 100 companies have the same auditor for an average of 48 years. “Switching auditors will not end audit failures and I would like to see shareholders become much more involved. We also hope to open up competition to allow smaller firms to gain a foothold in the upper

tiers of the market.

“After the 2008 financial crisis the finance sector needs to win back the confidence of investors. Investors are looking for higher quality auditing, improved value of statutory audits, and more competition in the market. My report aims to win back their confidence.”

Sajjad's final amendments to the EC's proposal were put before the European Parliament in November but the Competition Commission announced it was delaying publishing the findings of its investigation into the audit market until January.

The delay will not deter the European Parliament's planned timetable for reforms and Sajjad will press ahead with the European reforms as planned.



Meeting NW Business Team leaders Forum, City Tower, Manchester, to brief members on cutting red tape.



STOP THE STRASBOURG CIRCUS

Conservative MEPs, led by Ashley Fox MEP, have launched an e-petition calling on the Government to lobby for an end to the Strasbourg Circus at the European Council.

The European Parliament's monthly one week relocation to Strasbourg is costly, farcical, wasteful and utterly pointless. Where else in the world would you see a Parliament re-locate to identical facilities 250 miles away for 48 days a year and leave the same huge building complex empty for the remaining 317 days?

But the decision to relocate is one bound by treaty and can only be changed by national governments and NOT MEPs.

Conservative MEPs led by Ashley have convinced the Parliament to merge two sessions



in October thus cutting down the trips to Strasbourg from 12 to 11. The cost is estimated at 200 million Euros per year and 20,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide.

National Governments must agree to end this farce.

Getting 100,000 signatures for an e-petition means a good chance of a debate in the House of Commons on the subject. If you would like to see that debate take place please add your name

to the petition:

<http://epetitions.Direct.gov.uk/petitions/>

More on www.sajjadkarim.eu



NEWS IN BRIEF

THE EU MUST SET AN EXAMPLE

The main topic of conversation amongst British Conservative MEPs at the moment is the 2013 budget.

Sajjad said, "Look at Greece, look at Spain and even look at the mess David Cameron inherited and the consequences of over spending is plain for all to see.

In Britain we are asking citizens to adopt an austerity policy and at the same time the Commission wants to carry on spending and spending."

Conservative MEPs are determined to fight for fiscal responsibility.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY SINGLE MARKET

20 years on and still growing strong, the European Single Market, the biggest market in the world, was praised by Prime Minister David Cameron last week for being "the greatest asset we've got". However there is still more room for improvement. Saj and his Conservative colleagues will be looking to move the Single Market forward in sectors such as digital and services.

WELL DONE JAGUAR LAND ROVER

The North West car industry has had a good 2012 with major investment announced for Vauxhall at Ellesmere Port. And the year ended well for Jaguar Land Rover at Halewood with sales up 35%.

Sajjad (pictured at Halewood, right) said, "This is one of the toughest sectors and their achievement is despite tough trading conditions in the Eurozone. It is great to see the North West leading the way."

LANCASHIRE TAKING INSPIRATIONAL LEAD

Sajjad has sent his congratulations to Lancashire Conservatives for a pioneering initiative to kick start the local economy.

The County Council will guarantee about 20% of loans need by local businesses.

"This is a groundbreaking new way to fund business growth and a first for any council in the UK," said Councillor Michael Green.

"This approach to business funding has proved popular in other parts of the globe. It's directly supported growing businesses and created new jobs."



FROM CREWE TO CARLISLE



BAE Wharton, manufacturers of the Typhoon aircraft



Campaigning in Chester for new PCC John Dwyer, also with CF and Stephen Mosley MP



With Queen guitarist Brian May in Brussels discussing the badger cull



Lending a hand on the Conservative Stand at Stalybridge Carnival



With Tim Thomas and Andrew Fell of the Engineering Employers Federation (EEF) discussing cutting red tape (see p 4/5).



Campaigning in Rossendale & Darwen with Tim Ashton, Jake Berry MP and the team for last months PCC elections.



Panel discussion on European Year of Active Ageing, Hambleton, Cumbria



Supporting North West Blood Bikes whose volunteers deliver vital supplies to our local hospitals



Discussing European issues with members from Fylde



Europe Direct at Sale Conservative Club



NW members in Brussels with the MEP team whilst visiting the European Parliament.



Birkenhead Conservatives Lunch with Chairman Pam Turner

AND BRUSSELS TO BURY

WE NEED TO TRUST & ENGAGE IN DAVID CAMERON'S REFORM AGENDA

The Eurozone crisis is a field day for the naysayers, but the collapse of the EU will be disastrous for the North West. David Cameron has the right idea to search and seek reform and repatriation of powers.

We export twice as much to Belgium as we do to China. Ellesmere Port's Vauxhall plant exports Astras across Europe creating thousands of local jobs dependent on EU free trade. Our biggest national exports are pharmaceuticals and more people work in that industry in Liverpool than any other European city. Europe does matter in the North West.

Since January 1993 the single market has created 2.5 million jobs and £750 billion of extra prosperity. These are no small

By Sajjad
Karim
MEP
LLB (Hons)

insignificant figures.

We need to take the economic lead and it's the entrepreneurial spirit, so abundant and ingrained in the British psyche, which will lead us out of the doldrums.

FIFTY YEARS OF PEACE

Our lives, jobs and prosperity are intertwined with our neighbours. We can't afford to be anti-European. The EU started as the European Coal and Steel Community, which forced France, Germany, Italy and the Benelux countries to share coal and steel in re-constructing post-

"We export twice as much to Belgium as we do to China."

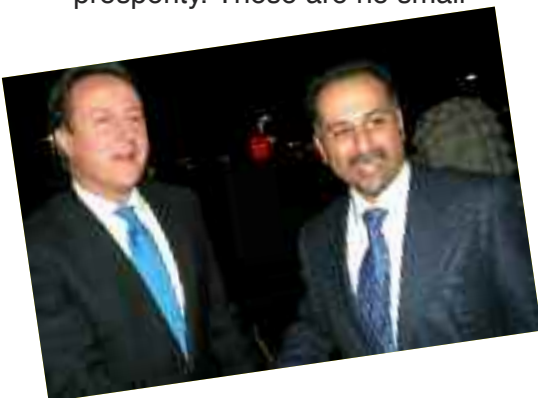
war Europe rather than building a fresh war machine.

When the Berlin Wall came down there were genuine fears of a Balkan style civil war in eastern Europe.

Instead, thanks to the EU, within fifteen years nearly all of those nations were democratic and EU members. It is now inconceivable that a major European war will occur. This has been achieved because the ambitions of nations are curbed by a need to co-operate in order to succeed.

OPEN MARKETS

The EU has unlocked untold markets for British firms. When the



EU stands up at the World Trade Organisation it negotiates on behalf of the world's biggest single market. Other nations ignore single countries in preference to making concessions to the larger EU.

These international deals cannot come too soon for Birkenhead's Cammel Laird as it bids to become a world leader and exporter in components for civil nuclear programmes. Hundreds of high skilled jobs will be protected at that historically troubled site.

COLLAPSE?

Many advocate that we should let the EU collapse under its current financial problems. It is a position I can't begin to comprehend. Why would we want our markets destroyed? Why would we want to obliterate jobs? Why would we want to halt prosperity and risk peace? The arguments for an in/out referendum can be compelling and they certainly lend themselves easily to newspaper headlines. But they are at best naive and worst pandering to the very fears and prejudices that are holding us back.

COST AND VALUE

Let's bust the biggest myth of all. We frequently hear 'we give more than we receive'. This is nonsense.

This claim does not take into account the jobs and prosperity created by opening markets or



sharing governmental functions.

A study by the South Bank University shows a staggering 3,445,000 UK jobs are dependent on trading with EU nations, 437,000 of those jobs here in the North West.

The claim also does not take into account urban regeneration. Look at Liverpool's waterfront - its modern appeal is down to EU cash.

REFORM

Yes the EU must reform, and David Cameron is right there must be a debate over what powers it must or must not have. Yes there is a democratic deficit, and yes member states have run up unacceptable domestic deficits. But to lose the EU and its principles of liberal free trade will be calamitous.

The North West was once the gateway to the largest Empire since the days of the Caesars. It held no qualms in facing the world. Surely now is the time to lose our fears over Europe and embrace the free market that is the envy of the world.

Why would we want to obliterate jobs? Why would we want to halt prosperity and risk peace?

EUROPE DIRECT

Throughout 2012 Sajjad has been running a series of Europe Direct meetings across the North West. Exclusively for Conservatives, these events give members the opportunity to have their say on key issues around Europe in a completely open environment. Feedback from our meetings will be invaluable in helping Sajjad better represent you in the European Parliament.

Meetings are free and open to all members from neighbouring constituencies.

Members are requested to register their attendance and light refreshments are served.

Europe Direct has proved popular and reactions have been positive. Even those who are not happy with aspects of the EU felt that Sajjad made the picture clearly and they were better aware of the facts.

For more:
europedirect@
sajjadkarim.eu

“Thank you so much for organising such an interesting, worthwhile and enjoyable event this evening”. Merryn Myatt.
Deputy Chairman,
Eddisbury Conservatives

“Saj clearly understands the arena in which he works and is not scared to openly discuss it, warts and all - It's good to know we have a strong voice for the North West in Europe.”
Cllr Chris Clarkson,
Salford Conservatives



Sajjad with Liverpool CF at Europe Direct in Liverpool

ROADMAP TO REFORM

William Hague has revealed plans for a Government Review that paves the way for European Union powers to be repatriated to the UK.

The Balance of Competencies Review will cover 32 distinct issues starting with

taxation, health and foreign policy.

The Review will be an opportunity for people to put

Sir Roger Carr, CBI President, said: "Whatever the popular appeal may be of withdrawal, businessmen & politicians must keep a bridge firmly in place. As countries of Europe bind together in pursuit of salvation, we in the UK must work harder to avoid the risks of isolation."

forward their views and once David Cameron has confirmed the

schedule Sajjad will be holding a series of meetings across the North West.

"Public disillusionment with the EU is the deepest it has ever been and we must review and reform our relationship

with Europe," said Sajjad.

Further information will be circulated as soon as available.

SUPER-FAST BROADBAND

Government has pledged more than £530m for rural areas and £150m for cities to create the best superfast broadband network in Europe by 2015, but a dispute between Broadband Delivery UK and the European Commission has delayed councils receiving grants for several months.

But following lobbying by the UK Culture Secretary Maria Miller and Conservative MEPs, the European Commission has now confirmed the UK support scheme for investing in rural and remote broadband is in line with state aid rules.

"This delay has had a negative effect on North West authorities' bids to secure agreements for the best broadband for their area." said Sajjad. "For

example, colleagues in Cheshire and Cumbria have submitted successful bids for grants from BDUK but are still waiting confirmation of monies tied up in the dispute."

"The approval has been a long time coming and will enable the UK to get on with delivering the broadband network that we need to grow our economy and support businesses of all sizes, particularly small rural businesses."



A CASE FOR THE EUROPEAN ARREST WARRANT

One area of European co-operation up for review is the European Arrest warrant (EAW).

Sussex teacher Jeremy Forrest who is charged with absconding with one of his pupils is now being dealt with by British courts. The speed the police got him back is cause to celebrate the EAW. Extradition secured in hours.

Compare this to the M25 Road Rage Killer Kenneth Noy; it took two years to get him back from Spain in the days before the EAW. It costs millions and the delay added to his victim's suffering.

The EAW has to be one of the most successful examples of co-operation there is. It is inconceivable to me that anyone, including members of my own party, want to end this. Crime does not respect borders and criminals can live anywhere. Our police need the tools to track undesirables down and bring them to justice. Nothing annoys victims more than learning of criminals living the highlife in the sun.

Policing at EU level, including use of the warrant, has been used to track down and bring to justice paedophiles, international

drug dealers and terrorists over recent years. In its first four years the EAW secured the extradition of almost 12,000 drug smugglers, child sex offenders, rapists and others such as Hussain Osman, one of the 2005 London would-be bombers. This is a cause for real celebration.

One of the great advantages of the EU for people is the ability to move to another member state. The flip side of this free movement is that criminals can easily skip out of range of national law.

David Cameron is coming under increasing pressure to walk away from this co-operation and has until 2014 to decide. I hope the Prime Minister keeps the warrant. Criminals fear the EAW and so they should.

Sajjad Karim MEP LLB (Hons)



British Police want to keep the EAW

An abridged version of this letter was published by the Independent in October.

EGYPT : A ROLE MODEL?

Sajjad has been appointed, as the European Conservatives' representative, to a special EU Task Force to Egypt.

It recently visited Cairo to discuss political and economic issues affecting the country after the 'Arab Spring'. They met with Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi and the country's Prime Minister Hisham Kandil.

"The country is keen to shift the focus from revolution to evolution and put itself on the path to economic and democratic prosperity," said Sajjad.

"There is a lot of hope and promise. Now President Morsi needs to deliver on the promise of being a president for all Egyptians."

The Task Force aims to create a strong political and economic partnership between the EU and Egypt. The EU will support the growth of jobs, investment and social development for the Egyptian people.

With the region seeing so much political instability and strife in recent times, most notably in Syria, the EU is keen for Egypt to be a role model of democracy in the Arab region.

Sajjad, who has been vocal in his criticism of the Syrian President, has

welcomed the initiative of Baroness Ashton, High Commissioner for Foreign Affairs, to establish the Task Force said:

"When Mohamed Morsi was elected as the Egyptian President, High Representative Ashton promised she would be one of the first to engage with the new President and his executive, and I am pleased to see she has kept her word.

"The Task Force will be an important and historic vehicle to impart democratic, economic and technological know-how to the Egyptian people. I am confident that it will be the first step towards a flourishing partnership."

Pic : Part of the delegation with Baroness Ashton (second left).



PCC SUCCESS IN NW

Many congratulations to all our PCC candidates across the North for putting up such a spirited campaign, and also a huge thanks to everyone who worked so hard on the various campaigns.

Thanks to a very focused and targeted campaign, we are delighted to report that we won the elections in Cheshire & Cumbria and put up a great fight in Lancashire, Greater Manchester and came second in Merseyside.

Cheshire

1st - Con - 48,951 - 56.7%
2nd - Lab 37,350 - 43.3%

Cumbria

1st - Con - 30,317 - 55.6%
2nd - Lab - 25,408 - 44.4%

Lancashire

1st - Lab - 79,790 - 52.1%
2nd - Con - 73,262 - 47.9%

Greater Manchester

1st - Lab - 139,437 - 51.23%
2nd - Con - 42,478 - 15.61%

Merseyside

Lab - 70,884 - 56.18%
2nd - Con - 15,870 - 12.58%



Top : Campaigning with John Dwyer in Cheshire before the November poll.

Below : With Tim Ashton in Lancashire shortly before election day.

Also congratulations to Matthew Sephton for fighting a positive campaign in the Manchester Central by-election

"Saj, I really appreciate all your support. Team Karim made such a difference. Look forward to working with you all in 2013."

Tim Ashton, PCC Candidate, Lancs.

*"Dear Sajjad
Your help on my campaign has been invaluable. Please do stay in touch and thank you."*

Comm. John Dwyer, Cheshire

CHESHIRE & WIRRAL CONSERVATIVE CONFERENCE 2013



Friday 1st & Saturday 2nd February 2013

*Delivering Change
Locally & Nationally*

Friday 1st February 2013

7pm Conference Dinner
with Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP
Secretary of State
for Communities & Local Government

Dinner £29
Conference Day Pass £10
CF Party £10

Saturday 2nd February 2013

Conference begins at 10am
with address from
Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP
Lunch Included

7.30 onwards
Conservative Future Party
Inc Dinner

VENUE

Mercure Hotel Chester East
(formerly Ramada Jarvis Hotel)
Whitchurch Road
Chester CH3 5QL

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WWW.CW13.CO.UK

TELL SAJ YOUR VIEWS

Sajjad welcomes feedback on issues that concern or interest you.
Please use the box below to share your views.

Please add me to Sajjad's mailing list for occasional e-newsletters

Name

Address

Email

Home/Mobile no

Please return to: **Sajjad Karim MEP c/o NWCCC, 14b Wynford Sq, West Ashton St, Salford M50 2SN**

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