



European Conservatives
and Reformists Group



Conservatives
in the European Parliament

PUTTING THE NORTH WEST FIRST

Spring 2013



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

A member from Warrington recently asked why Sajjad was very keen on helping Small and Medium Sized Enterprises or SMEs. We found these stats to explain....

☐ There are an estimated 4.8 million businesses in the UK which employ 23.9 million people, they have a combined turnover of £3,100 billion

☐ SMEs account for 99.9 per cent of all private sector businesses in the UK, 59.1 per cent of private sector employment and 48.8 per cent of private sector turnover

☐ SMEs employ 14.1 million people and have a combined turnover of £1,500 billion

☐ Small businesses alone accounted for 47 per cent of private sector employment and 34.4 per cent of turnover

☐ Of all businesses, 62.7 per cent (three million) were sole proprietorships, 28 per cent (1.3 million) were companies and 9.3 per cent (448,000) partnerships

micro: 0-9 employees,
small: 10-49 employees,
medium: 50-249 employees

SOURCE : FEDERATION OF SMALL BUSINESSES

With David Cameron at the New Year reception in Manchester.



In this second edition of *'Putting the North West First'* Sajjad talks about the Prime Minister's Leadership, the #CW13 Conference, Fishing, Cutting Red Tape and who offers the North West 'diddy squat'.

Thank you so much for all the great comments following our first edition before Christmas. Do keep them coming; we read every one.



Eric Pickles telling his chums how it was at the #CW13 Conference.

Dear Friends

What a few months for the EU this has been. After 40 years of flux the Prime Minister has shown incredible courage in spelling out the need for reform ahead of the British public having its say sometime in 2017.

And then after 57 years of ever increasing budgets the PM led the way in negotiating a budget cut.

What David Cameron has achieved is a complete change of mind-set in many of the EU member states towards the Union.

We are no longer alone in seeking reform.

This is a clear demonstration of how we can achieve our aims of reforming the EU and our place within it. Our positive agenda is ambitious for our country and its position in Europe and the world.

The budget must still be approved by the European Parliament and the Socialists have said they will not accept this new deal. They are now trying to force a secret vote allowing MEPs to hide behind secrecy in order to reject the

Unemployment continues to fall gradually in the North West. There were 7000 fewer people seeking Jobseeker's Allowance in January compared to January 2012.

A record number of businesses were started in the NW last year. Some 16175, more than any other year on record.

"I am very pleased Sajjad opposes the secret vote on the budget cut - an appalling idea I hope is defeated."

Susan Peak
Ashton Under Lyme



Learning about the invaluable work of the CPRE in the North West.

deal agreed by national leaders.

A secret vote is simply wrong. The way I and colleagues vote should be open for all to see.

So much has been going on in the North West too. The economy is making slow but sure progress, HS2 is coming, we had a stunning by-election victory in Wirral and I was delighted to support Cheshire and

Wirral's first ever area conference.

Sajjad H Karim MEP LLB (Hons)

REVIEW, REFORM and REFERE

THE EUROPEAN UNION HAS RUN OUT OF STEAM.

Born out of an understandable desire to defuse tensions following two world wars it became an aspirational club to which poorer southern European and former Soviet Bloc countries could belong. Somewhere in the middle we created a single market and all the time those defining and building Europe never took time out to ask, are we going too far?

The economic crisis has brought the purpose of the EU into sharp focus and many Europeans are starting to question whether we really need the EU. The south feels the pain of tough austerity measures and loss of sovereignty; the north is increasingly uneasy about subsidizing Europe's "profligate brethren," corrupt politicians, inefficient state apparatus, and unsustainable lifestyle.

Its historical justification long faded, the EU project is facing an existential crisis.

Yet the current crisis is an opportunity in disguise.

Where David Cameron has taken the lead, other European leaders must follow his example and seize the chance to refocus the entire organisation to improve competitiveness and move it away from its desire to meddle needlessly. This would increase the legitimacy of the EU.



Europe was a big talking point at the #CW13 Conference. See page 6

The UK joined for access to the single market - a perfectly well-advised move. But the harmonisation of rules that followed has gone too far - way too far - and what we now have is anti-competition monster.

By vowing to renegotiate a looser EU relationship for the UK and let voters decide whether to stay in, Cameron's setting a precedent for other nations that want to back away. Not just Denmark, which shares the UK's euro opt out (the Maastricht Treaty currently requires all other EU nations to adopt the common currency), but EU or even eurozone nations wary of plans for tighter eurozone integration.

NDUM - a new path for the UK?

R is for REVIEW

There is a cross-government audit currently under way looking at where the EU has powers over life in the UK. The idea is that each power will then be examined to see whether it is necessary or whether the power could be "brought back" to the UK.

Areas it might include are the Working Time Directive, which imposes employment rules such as limiting the working week and giving EU workers a minimum number of holidays each year.

The UK is also keen on opt-outs from policing and criminal justice measures. The 2010 Conservative manifesto said, "We will work to bring back key powers over legal rights, criminal justice and social and employment legislation to the UK."

R is for REFORM

The recent eurozone crisis has led those countries using the single currency to believe that they need closer integration in future - a move which will further

increase the gap between the euro and non-euro EU members.

There needs to be a new EU treaty to facilitate the eurozone integration, so, as part of negotiations, there is a chance to redefine the membership rules for countries like the UK. Conservative MEPs are already leading the reform agenda. For my part I have drafted legislation on cutting red tape for small and medium sized businesses.



PM : "The main, overriding purpose of the European Union is different: not to win peace, but to secure prosperity."

R is for REFERENDUM

I am confident that by 2017 David Cameron will have secured a better deal for Britain and a more competitive less regulatory EU.

I've always been very clear it's in our national interest as a trading nation to be in the single market. I want it to be a new and reformed Europe with Britain at its trading heart.

UKIP offer the North West & Britain "diddly squat". See P18

#CW13 Conference

Something new for our diaries, #CW13, the first ever Conference organised by the area team in Cheshire & Wirral was a great success.

253 members took part and there was plenty of debate including Europe, Equal Marriage and HS2. It also got plenty of media coverage with a BBC Correspondent tweeting *"This #CW13 is proving to be very interesting. Much more relevant debate than you get at national conference."*

The Conference started with dinner on the Friday night in Chester with Eric Pickles as the main guest. Eric then stayed to open the conference the next morning. The entire MEP team and 8 local MPs took part. There was also an exhibition with stands from businesses etc. It was a great weekend and I thank all those who worked so hard to make it happen.

It was particularly encouraging to see so many young people take part and the Conservative Party is certainly in rude health in Cheshire and Wirral.

The challenge has been set, what can other areas do?

A FULL GALLERY OF PICTURES

"Saj, Thank you for all your help with #CW13 and in advance for the Freshers Fair."
Tom Bradley, W. Cheshire CF & Conf Team



A BUSY & JOYFUL CHRISTMAS

2013 started in a wonderfully positive way. Over the Christmas Recess I was to be able to play a part in ensuring the return of little Atiya Wilkinson to her mother, Gemma, a North West constituent.

Aged just 3 Atiya was abducted by her father and taken to Pakistan. He left her there to be brought up by extended family and returned to Rochdale where he was subsequently jailed for refusing to reveal Atiya's whereabouts.

For over 3 years Greater Manchester Police Officers and Gemma never gave up hope, working locally and linking in with the FCO.

I became aware of the case in November and was able to raise the matter with the Pakistani Foreign Minister in the European Parliament, the Chief Minister for the Punjab and other authorities in Pakistan.

The biggest frustration was not knowing if anything positive might happen but within a few weeks, security services had identified where she was living.

Much of Christmas Eve was spent in Ashton Police Station meeting with Police officers and Gemma when I was able to confirm Atiya had been found and we dared to plan a strategy for her return.

The best present on Christmas

Day was the email I received with photos of Atiya, taken by the security services the previous day.

Gemma was able to see her little girl for the first time in over 3 years. She recognised Atiya immediately & said she hadn't changed a bit!

There then followed a roller-coaster few days

until Atiya came home on 28th December. It was a great privilege to be at Manchester Airport with Gemma as Atiya landed back in the UK. Gemma's nightmare finally came to an end as she was reunited with Atiya who stretched out her arms and said "Mummy".

Every so often, as a politician, you are able to step back and see you are involved in something very special. The day Atiya came home was one of those days.



Gemma Wilkinson (pictured): "The actions taken by Sajjad Karim and the Pakistani authorities brought to fruition 3 years of work by GMP. I can't thank them all enough."

SUPPORTING EU FUNDING FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY

Interesting project being considered for the Port of Fleetwood. We thought this letter explained it perfectly.

Dear Sue,

Please thank Sajjad for his recent assistance in guiding us around the complex EU with regards to funding and grants for green energy projects here in the North West.

His knowledge and understanding of the way the European Parliament works has been incredibly helpful to what is a key regional green energy development that I am involved in. Wyre Energy Ltd is the commercial company involved in gaining funding and feasibility for a tidal barrage and associated leisure facilities across the River Wyre at the port of Fleetwood.

Naturally, we have already engaged with many of the wider community and interest groups and this work will continue in the coming months. It is essential that a development like ours takes

place to bring jobs, visitors (some 600,000 visitors a year are expected) and further development to areas that badly need an opportunity to grow and be successful once more.

Saj has been key in opening dialogue in these areas and to review all sources of funding that may be open to our project from the funds in Europe.

Having Saj in the European Parliament representing the

North West means that we can help bring investment and funding directly to our part of the world, improving the lives of many right here on our doorstep. So once again, on behalf of the board of directors of Wyre Energy Ltd, thank you for doing all that you can to gain funding for the feasibility stage of the Wyre Tidal Barrage.

Yours sincerely,

David Jones
Director
Wyre Energy



FROM THE POSTBAG

These days an MEP doesn't just get post. Communications come via text, Facebook, Twitter, email, the website as well as the good old Royal Mail. Please keep your comments coming; we read every one.

Dear Sajjad

I wrote to you regarding the problems I was having with Greater Manchester Police, and their refusal to treat a serious assault on my son as an assault [he was blinded in one eye permanently]. However since your intervention the boy responsible for the assault has now been charged and our complaints were finally taken seriously.

I would like to thank you, Sajjad, and your team for the help and support you gave us, it meant a lot to us in a time of great distress when nobody else would listen to or help us.

*Suzanne Daune
Edgworth. Turton*

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I am just writing to ask if you could pass on my personal thanks to Saj for his excellent talk and the very clear and straightforward way in which he put his points across and dealt with our members' very varied questions and comments. It all

made for a very interesting and enjoyable meeting and I am sure we all went home with a clearer understanding of where things stand now in terms of the prospects for a less burdensome regulatory regime for smaller businesses - as well as the future for Britain and Europe!

*Geoffrey Piper. Chief Executive
NW Business Leadership Team*

□□□

@SHKMEP great questions answered today and lovely talking to you one of the most open and easy to talk to politicians out there! #cw13 -
@Tara_Hewitt

□□□

On behalf of Birkenhead Conservative Ladies Luncheon Club, as a very sincere thank you... The feedback, a mixture of emails, phone calls and calls over the weekend, was all complimentary. Members tell me that thanks to your good self they now have a much clearer understanding of the European situation overall. The other comment arising was , "please ask him to come back again".

*Pam Turner
B'head Conservatives*



EUROPE DIRECT

Q: What is Europe Direct?

A : Your chance to have your say on all matters Europe.

Issues around Europe are hot topics and Sajjad wants to give Conservative Party members the opportunity to have their say. That's why last year he launched EUROPE DIRECT - a rolling programme of informal meetings across the North West.

Exclusively for our Party members who are able to put over their views in a completely open environment, Sajjad is taking the discussion right back to our grass roots. Meetings are open to all members from neighbouring constituencies.

Recently members from Tameside held a Europe Direct meeting as part of their

programme of political discussions.

Dr Paul Buckley kindly

arranged the event at Houghton Green Conservative Club and members were asked what THREE words best describe the EU for you? The results stimulated some cryptic comments and lively debate which was inevitably enjoyed by all who took part.

At time of writing ED events coming up are Wirral, Bolton and West Lancashire.



Dr Paul Buckley: "Saj, thanks for a fantastic debate tonight and great discussion on our European future. Everyone really enjoyed the interaction."

Please contact Sue Gillett if you would like to have a EUROPE DIRECT event in your constituency, branch or university.

*Tel : 07776 144870
sue.gillett@sajjadkarim.eu*

GUIDE DOG'S CAMPAIGN TO KEEP PEDESTRIANS SAFE

Regulations setting the maximum sound level for cars have been in place for many years. However, there was no minimum level. But with hybrid and electric cars, which are silent, becoming more common, these present a danger to pedestrians, in particular blind and partially sighted pedestrians.

Research shows quiet vehicles are twice as likely to be involved in a collision with a pedestrian and that at certain speeds they cannot be heard until one second before impact.

Saj was contacted by Guide Dogs for the Blind, who were concerned about this threat to safety.

The Guide Dogs charity believed that the installation of AVAS should be mandatory for vehicle manufacturers and not optional which was what was being recommended.



Amendments to this effect were put forward and backed by the Conservatives in the European Parliament. With a last minute

climb down by the Socialists, the regulation was passed.

Local Engagement Officer, Emma Allen-Taylor commented "Guide Dogs were delighted that Sajjad voted to make the installation of artificial noise generators mandatory on quiet hybrid and electric vehicles. The ability

to hear electric vehicles is critical to the independence and freedom of movement of blind and partially sighted people in the UK, as well as other road users. Now it is up to individual member states to agree the regulation. We hope that MEPs will continue to support us by voicing our concerns about quiet vehicles to the UK Government."

FISHING VICTORY

Earlier this year, Sajjad took part in a key European Parliament vote that will mean sweeping reforms to the EU's Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). The vote, held on the 6th February, will bring an end to the controversial and wasteful practise of dumping healthy fish overboard to meet EU quotas. It will also bring forward legally binding targets to rebuild our fish stocks



above maximum sustainable yield (MSY).

The move to reform the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) follows years of work by MEPs and a high-profile campaign headed by TV chef, Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall, which highlighted to a wider audience the practice of fisherman dumping healthy fish overboard to meet necessary quotas.

“This is a victory for common sense”, said Sajjad, “Wasteful discards are believed to account for a whopping quarter of total catches under the current quota system. Given a global food shortage and consequent rise in

food prices, the quota system is absurd.

“Along with my Conservative colleagues in the European Parliament, I have been a strong supporter from the outset of the campaign to promote sustainable

fishing and to end the fishing quota system that results in millions of tonnes of perfectly edible fish being thrown back into the sea every year.”

Following approval by the European Parliament, the issue will now go before the 27 Member State governments on the European Council. It is hoped that the proposed changes will become law within the next year.

Dear Sajjad,

“I am pleased to see that you are working well on our behalf.

I am particularly pleased to see that you share my concerns relating to the dumping of perfectly good fish back into the sea. The public at large should be made to understand that there is more to the benefits of eating fish than just choosing Cod, Haddock, Salmon and Tuna and we must get used to eating other abundant species. Keep up the good work.”

Cllr Bryan Craig, Carlisle

SIXTY SECOND SURVEY

EUROPEAN MATTERS

PLEASE GIVE US A MINUTE OF YOUR TIME AND ANSWER THESE 10 QUESTIONS ON EUROPE.

1. Do you feel that the European Union (in its current form) has strayed too far from its original goals of promoting trade and European unity?

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

2. Do you support the Prime Minister's plans to renegotiate a better deal for Britain's relationship with the EU?

- Yes
- No

3. If David Cameron was to renegotiate a looser relationship for Britain with the EU (based on trade, competitiveness and less regulation), would you support Britain remaining a member of the EU?

- Yes, I would support a new relationship
- No, our relationship is fine as it is
- No, I would still vote to come out of the EU no matter what

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

4. If you were to renegotiate a new deal between Britain and the EU, what two powers would you return to Westminster?

- 1.
- 2.

5. Do you agree with David Cameron's stance to force the EU to reduce its budget for the first time in its history (a cut of 3%)?

- Yes
- No

6. Do you think David Cameron's announcement of a Referendum after the next election has resonated with the British public?

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

7. Only the Conservatives have pledged a Referendum after the next election. Do you think the generation that were not born or unable to vote in the 1970's referendum will appreciate the opportunity to have a say?

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

Please return to: **Sajjad Karim MEP c/o NWCCC, 14**

8 . As part of the review process last Autumn William Hague announced a Review of Competencies over the next 2 years.

Had you heard about the Review of Competencies? Yes No

Did you know you could take part? Yes No

Would you like to hear from Sajjad how to take part? Yes No

9. The Conservatives have pledged to cut red tape at every level and Sajjad has been the Conservative lead on this in the European Parliament.

How would you wish to see more red tape cut?



10. Many people form their opinions about the EU based on what they see in the media. What sort of picture do you think the British media put over about the EU currently?

- Positive
- Negative
- Realistic

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**

How we use your information

The data you provide will be retained by the Conservative Party and Sajjad Karim MEP ("the data holders") in accordance with the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998 and related legislation. By providing your data to us, you are consenting to the data holders making contact with you in the future by telephone, text or other means, even though you may be registered with the Telephone Preference Service. Your data will not be sold or given to anyone not connected to the Conservative Party. If you do not want the information you give to us to be used in this way, or for us to contact you, please indicate by ticking the relevant boxes: Post Email SMS Phone

SAJJAD LAUNCHES BUSINESS GUIDE TO EU FUNDING

Sajjad has launched a new guide for North West businesses, charities and community organisations, detailing how to source funding from the EU.

As an MEP he gets enquiries all the time, particularly from SMEs, who struggle to find the information they require.

Speaking in the European Parliament's Plenary Debate in Strasbourg, Sajjad said "We need to improve provision, process and access to information on financing instruments for SMEs. 98% of all EU businesses are SMEs. They provide 67% of all private sector employment and are responsible for 85% of all new jobs in the European Union. They quite clearly are the backbone of our economies. Providing the right circumstances for their viability is essential for their growth.

"We need to have a much wider approach. I come from a nation of shopkeepers, we must think small first. Exclude SMEs from the legislative burden unless the

benefit outweighs those burdens" said Sajjad during the debate on 'Improving access to finance for SMEs'.

Shaun Lewis, Director, Dunscair Garden Centre, Tarleton, Lancashire

"I wish to congratulate you on your work and achievements in Europe on behalf of small businesses. You are the only politician of any party I have come across in the last few years who seems to understand the real needs of SMEs. I actually make time to read what you send me rather than binning or deleting it."

As Conservative Legal Affairs spokesperson Sajjad's 'Better Legislation' report was adopted last year and exempts micro-businesses from burdensome regulation. He is committed to delivering the Government's agenda to reduce the red tape that stifles business growth.



If you would like a copy please email david@sajjadkarim.eu or visit www.sajjadkarim.eu.

SAJJAD TAKES TIME FOR AN “OOO”

Sajjad dropped in for a “cuppa” at Wirral based tea manufacturer Typhoo. The historic brand has been based at Moreton since 1974 and employs over 200 staff locally. Originally called Typhoo Tipps Tea. ‘Ty-phoo’ is the Chinese word for doctor.

Meeting with the Senior Management Team over a cup of Typhoo to learn about the business, Saj was told by Chief Executive Keith Packer, that the total tea market, worth over £600m annually, is in decline with traditional tea losing out to new fruit blends.

“We export to around 50 countries including new markets and 5% of our sales are export” said Keith. Exports to countries like China are growing and the British brand is an effective marketing tool.

Typhoo obtain tea ethically, sourcing the finest tea for their blend and looking at every aspect of life on the tea estate.

In addition to their own brands

they also produce tea for Tesco, Co-op, Sainsburys and Harrods at their Moreton base.

Keith Packer detailed Typhoo’s support for the Sports for All project commenting “We believe that everyone who has a passion

for sport should have a chance to take part, regardless of their ability.”

Sajjad toured the factory with Head of Factory Steve Barratt and was impressed with their achievements in reducing energy consumption and recycling.

“It’s clear that all staff have a great enthusiasm and

commitment to the brand and company, working as a team over 3 shifts per day. Some staff have worked here for over 30 years.” said Sajjad.

“Typhoo produce 14,000 tons of tea at the Moreton factory every year. I always enjoy a good cuppa and was amazed at some of the interesting facts Steve told me about tea including that 1 ton of tea produces 330,000 tea bags!”



Chief Executive Keith Packer, meets Sajjad with Steve Barratt, Head of Factory & General Manager Jimmy Medhora.

SAJJAD CALLS ON TELECOMS FIRM FOR EU SOUND CHECK

Saj has invited Blackburn based Abbey Telecom on a visit to Brussels to discuss business development opportunities and help cut through red tape.

The growth of smartphone technology is having a positive impact on their business. The firm boasts continual growth in its customer base and is now tapping into new business opportunities in Europe which may expand its reach as far afield as Romania and Italy.

“Sajjad was aware of our interests in Europe and wanted to find out more about our business and how EU and global markets affect us,” explained Abbey MD Tony Raynor.

Sajjad added: “This is a genuine example of how a local business is affected by global changes and how technology continues to improve the way we work. Clearly the company can assist with

feedback on EU regulation. So I am asking Tony to bring a small group of companies over to Brussels to speak to policy makers and give them first hand experiences of SMEs facing legislative barriers.”

Saj commits much of his time working towards a reduction in EU regulations on businesses, particularly for SMEs, seeking to improve the law-making process across the EU and reduce red tape. Abbey Telecom employs North Lancashire personnel to install and maintain telephone systems across the UK and beyond.



Tony Raynor MD, Abbey Telecoms, Blackburn “We are very keen to get involved with Sajjad’s drive to address regulatory burdens. We hope we’ll be able to bring a bit of influence to bear and act as a mouthpiece for local businesses seeking to compete in international markets.”

For further information about Abbey Telecom’s services, visit www.abbeytele.com.

INTERNING IN BRUSSELS

Jack Stallworthy from Liverpool recently joined Sajjad as an parliamentary aide, we asked him to pen a few words on the experience.

Taking two weeks off from my day job in Liverpool to intern at Sajjad Karim's office at the European Parliament has proved to be an invaluable, enjoyable and thoroughly intellectually stimulating experience. Having the ability to listen in and take notes on committee meetings that were debating issues, in which I take a great interest, was a particular high point.

One pleasant surprise was how much I could use my German skills, with lots of the committees being chaired and of course having participants from Germany and Austria. Indeed, having studied interpreting as part of my degree, I was pleased to discover that my own efforts at interpreting had not been all that bad in comparison to the professionals working at the parliament.

Helping to put together press releases and other documents

enabled me to draw on knowledge gained through my studies and interests but also allowed me to gain a great deal more information and insight on topics which I find engaging. Indeed, I am grateful to



have learned ways of accessing meeting documents, which will prove beneficial in the future for both my general interest and planned future studies.

Seeing and learning more of the work Sajjad Karim does in the European Parliament has also emboldened my desire to see that Conservatives are elected on a local, national and European level. Whether it is on trade with India, effects of EU legislation on small and medium enterprises, or the EU's interactions with the emerging democracies of the Middle East, it is clear that the work of Sajjad and the Conservatives in Europe on behalf of people of the North West is vital.

After coming back on the Eurostar on the Friday night, I was keen to get out campaigning bright and early on the Saturday morning!

NEWS IN BRIEF

❑ Congratulations to Lancashire County Council for cutting the Council Tax by 2%.

❑ Sajjad and his fellow Conservative MEPs were deeply dismayed over a court judgment overturning a decision to reduce the number of costly trips to sit in Strasbourg made by the European Parliament. So the crazy and costly 2-seat system continues but so does the fight for common sense.

❑ The Ministry of Defence has confirmed the order of a 4th Astute class submarine commissioned from BAE Systems. The contract for HMS Audacious is worth £1.2 billion and will secure 3000 jobs at BAE's Cumbria base. This is a testament to the flexibility of a truly modern workforce.



“On behalf of Read Cricket and Bowling Club I would to pass on my thanks to

Sajjad Karim on his response to our request to support funding bids, this has been excellent news for the club.”

Howard Marks, Read Cricket and Bowling Club, Lancs

❑ We welcome UK Independence MEP Marta Andreasen to the Conservatives. Marta quit and launched an excoriating attack on Nigel Farage's leadership. She dismissed the party's chances of achieving real power, and hailed the Prime Minister's speech pledging an in-out referendum on EU membership as a "game changer".

❑ STOP PRESS - Just as this booklet was about to go print MEPs including Sajjad met with European Minister David Liddington MP who urged Brussels-based colleagues to continue with reforms such as cutting red tape. Mr Liddington said Conservatives must take the lead in delivering reform.

UKIP OFFER 'DIDDLY SQUAT'

"As our Prime Minister was negotiating a budget cut in Brussels I was asked to represent the Conservative Party on the BBC Daily Politics Show.

"Also on the show was the UKIP Leader Nigel Farage. Except he was present via a sat-link from Brussels which I found odd as the Parliament wasn't even sitting that day. Yet four days earlier when we were securing funds for our UK

businesses not a single UKIP MEP was in the chamber.

"If there ever was a clear demonstration of fraud in Europe on the British people - UKIP is it.

"It's high time we expose UKIP for the hypocritical shower that they are. They offer diddly squat for Britain.

"As we run up to the next European elections that is my commitment to you."

Saj



@SHKMep: Sajjad on the Daily Politics Show " looking forward to seeing Sajjad, one of the best MEP's we have. - @CllrWarren
Cllr Warren Bennett, South Ribble.

Find out what Saj is up to, follow him on Twitter @shkmep



MENTION IN THE COMMONS

Who says Merseyside is the exclusive domain of Labour?

Well done to Ian Lewis who took the Moreton East and Leasowe by-election off Labour in a cold and snowy January. His victory was even mentioned in the House of Commons. Ian won because he focussed on residents and extolled their concerns for action. We also retained Heswall on the same day.

Sadly a Labour onslaught couldn't help us retain the marginal ward of Pensby and Thingwall but what was impressive was the number of volunteers who came out for all the battles.



Sajjad campaigning in the Wirral for the January and February by-elections.

Tony Caldeira, Liverpool Conservatives "Saj is a good mate who I've known for years. Great to catch up with him out on campaigns. He's always happy to chat to people on the doorstep and discuss any issues - local, national or international."

HS2 IS AN “ENGINE FOR GROWTH”

Saj has welcomed the publication of detailed plans for a High Speed rail link (HS2) into the North West, highlighting the huge economic benefits it will bring to the region.

The plans announced earlier this year by the Department for Transport provide detailed proposals of the HS2 route, which is due to enter the region with a station at Crewe, with further stops at Manchester Airport and Manchester city centre.

It has been estimated that the completed network, linking Manchester, Birmingham, London and the Continent could be worth almost £1bn a year for the region’s economy.

The new rail link would also free-up capacity on an already heavily overcrowded railway network, particularly on the West Coast Mainline to London, freeing more capacity for commuter and freight services.

“This is the engine for growth

our region needs”, said Saj. “It has the potential to support thousands of new jobs across the North West.

“Extending the high-speed network will not only shorten

journey times to Manchester, but the link to Crewe will mean huge time savings between London and Liverpool, as well as train journeys to Lancashire,

Cumbria and the rest of the region. The new stop at Manchester airport will also help provide Cheshire residents with a fast and accessible route to the capital.

“It was clear at the Cheshire Conference that some members have concerns about its route and we must seek to find solution to those very real concerns and do so quickly. HS2 really is an exciting project.”



EU-USA FREE TRADE

In February, both the United States of America and the EU announced their ambitions to begin talks on building a Free Trade Agreement between the two largest economies in the world.

Such a deal would bring down existing trading barriers, by eliminating and reducing trade tariffs and other costly regulatory barriers. The deal is likely to give a strong boost to economies on both sides of the Atlantic and enhance Britain's annual GDP growth by 0.5%.

In terms of size, the EU-US trade relationship is the biggest in the world, with around €2 billion of goods and services traded every day between the European Union and the United States. The EU and the US economies together account for about half the entire world GDP and for nearly a third

of world trade flows.

Sajjad said: "With almost 90% of world demand now generated outside of the European Union, it is a key priority for the EU to open

up more market opportunities for our businesses and to generate economic growth, jobs and prosperity for our citizens.

"For both the EU and US average tariffs are already low", adds Saj, "Yet further reductions would nonetheless stimulate additional trade, particularly in areas where tariffs are much higher, notably food.

"Such a trade deal is a powerful reminder of EU's role in forging such positive

economic agreements on behalf of its members. I look forward to the commencement of the negotiations".



ONE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MPs AND MEPs

Sajjad is continually asked about the difference between an MP and MEP. The answer is of course far too long for this booklet but one difference is legislation.

An MEP, can draft legislation if they wish to take on the extra work. To do this takes many extra hours not just in drafting but lobbying to get it through the Parliament, the Commission and the Council. This is a far cry from the Westminster system where apart from the private Member Bill system legislation is the domain of the government.

During this parliament Sajjad has authored no fewer than 13 new pieces of proposed legislation which went on to be presented and approved and now form the basis for new legislation.

In fact this is something of a record. Not only for this year, but for this Parliamentary term to

date. This Parliament runs from June 2009 after the last European elections. Since this date only 9 MEPs, none of them British, have actually carried out and completed more work on legislation than Sajjad. (Source: votewatch.eu)



As Legal Affairs Spokesperson, Sajjad's reports cover diverse topics from Smart Regs (making regulations

simpler), to excise duty on tobacco.

But whatever the issues, Sajjad's work always aims to bring advancements and reforms in the EU in a way that is to the betterment of the UK.

Subsidiarity and the role of national parliaments is key to his Legal Affairs agenda and always reigning back where the EU is embarking upon issues that are better dealt with in the UK.

SUPPORT FOR CUMBRIA'S HISTORIC DECISION ON RADIOACTIVE WASTE

Sajjad has expressed his support for Cumbria County Council in the wake of their decision that Cumbria should no longer be considered as a potential location for a deep geological repository for radioactive waste.

Speaking from Brussels Saj said "I am very sensitive to the fact that this is not a decision that has been reached lightly and that the storage of spent nuclear fuels in Cumbria is a highly emotive issue with a wide range of views on all sides.

"The nuclear industry is a major contributor to the economy in Cumbria but the concerns raised in the National Audit Office's

report last year must be addressed and I will work with local agencies and the Government to ensure secure arrangements for existing surface storage are maximized.

"Council colleagues have given very careful consideration to the geological evidence, legal arguments and the views of all partners before taking this historic decision.

"I am firmly of the opinion that such decisions must be taken by local people and the majority view of the residents of one our most beautiful counties must prevail."



Great to see David Cameron flagging up Jaguar on his recent trip to India.

But where do you think the oldest overseas Jaguar dealership in the world is? Paris? Washington? Berlin?? No, it is in Beirut!

Sajjad stopped by to remind them to keep pushing British made cars.

Pic : Sajjad in the Beirut dealership.

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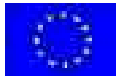


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