

TELL SAJ YOUR VIEWS

Cost of Strasbourg - One week every month the European Parliament sits in Strasbourg instead of Brussels. This involves the movement of MEPs and staff across Europe and costs EU taxpayers around £200 million per year.

Do you agree with Sajjad that this is a total waste of time and money? Yes No

The Egg debate - hastily drafted EU food labelling legislation means that items sold by number (eg eggs), would also have to display the weight, incurring considerable additional cost.

Should goods sold by number also have to be labelled by weight? Yes No

The BNP - have two elected Members of the European Parliament, including the North West. Do you think that representatives from the main UK political parties should appear on a public platform (e.g. debates and hustings) with BNP representatives? Yes No

Working Time Directive - Conservative MEPs campaigned to keep our opt-out of the Working Time Directive which is under threat. If this opt-out were removed people would be limited to working no more than 48 hrs even if they wanted to.

Do you think it's in our workers best interest to keep the opt-out? Yes No

Voting System Referendum - The Coalition Government propose a referendum on our voting system which is likely to be held next Spring. Would you:

Vote for our existing First Past the Post System Yes No

Vote for the Alternative Vote system where candidates are ranked Yes No

YOUR CONCERNS

Please indicate issues that interest or concern you

- | | | |
|---|---|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> EU budgets and spending | <input type="checkbox"/> Transport | <input type="checkbox"/> Tourism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business and finance | <input type="checkbox"/> International Affairs | <input type="checkbox"/> Defence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture, farming and fisheries | <input type="checkbox"/> Environment and Green issues | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: Please detail in box below | | |

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Conservative Legal Affairs Spokesperson

At the end of last year Sajjad was promoted to the Conservative frontbench in Europe as the British Delegation Legal Affairs Spokesperson. He is also the European Conservatives and Reformists Group Legal Affairs Coordinator. In this role Sajjad has undertaken vital work representing Britain and the North West. Below are just two of the issues he's been involved with:

Standing up for Britain in the EU

Last month, Sajjad spoke in the European Parliament in Strasbourg on the need for Member States to play their full part in the regulation and supervision of the financial system. His comments came following EU proposals to strengthen financial regulation across Europe with the creation of new EU-level watchdogs.

Sajjad, who was presenting the Opinion of the Legal Affairs Committee, expressed his concerns that such proposals would overrule Britain and open the floodgates to more centralised policy-making at EU-level.

Sajjad said, "I feel it is essential to strengthen financial supervision in Europe to avoid the harmful economic consequences that have been brought about over the last few years. I feel the 'credit crunch' and subsequent economic downturn has exposed important failures in financial supervision, both in particular cases and in relation to the financial system as a whole.

"I therefore broadly support the proposals made by the Commission, however, I believe it is vital that Member States and national financial supervisors retain competence where appropriate."

Standing up for Family Values

Sajjad also stood up for British family values following European Commission plans to harmonise divorce laws across Europe that would make divorce an easier option for married couples in this country.

Sajjad warned that the EU Commission had already made it clear that they want this to be a first step in an effort to harmonise the different legal systems and common values across the EU.

Sajjad commented. "We should be encouraging people to look at the long term consequences of divorce and setting policies that place the family at the centre of society. The commission and the ten countries that want to go ahead should respect the 17 countries that do not. This is another example of the 'slow creep' of EU legislation which will be detrimental to British Society."

A Job Well Done!

"May I take this opportunity to congratulate those of you who fought the General and Local Elections for the Conservative Party in the North West. I was delighted to visit many of you and help you with your campaigns, as well as see at first-hand the work you'd been doing in your constituencies. Whether you were a candidate, a member of staff, volunteer or activist, it has been through your years of hard work



that meant we polled over a million votes and won twenty two seats across the region. Despite the many victories there were also disappointments, as several of our hard working candidates came close but not close enough to winning seats. But to those who are not fortunate enough to now be down in Westminster, you can be proud of your success in being a strong representative of the Party in your constituencies. So a huge thank-you to everyone for their hard work and dedication. The Conservative Party in the North West would never have come this far without you."



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Visit to Central Salford URC and MediaCity:UK

In February Sajjad attended a private briefing on the work of the Central Salford Urban Regeneration Company with Chief Executive, Chris Farrow. He was joined on his visit by Salford's Conservative Parliamentary candidates, Iain Lindley and Matthew Sephton.

Central Salford URC was founded in 2005 to draw up a vision and regeneration framework for the inner-city Salford area, including the MediaCity:UK development. The company works hand-in-hand with Salford City Council, the Homes & Communities Agency and the North West Development Agency, and has received support from the European Regional Development Fund.

Chris spoke on how Central Salford URC has outlined several 'project' areas in the city with the aim of reviving and regenerating many neglected and run-down inner-city zones. In parts of the city this investment is long over-due and is essential to improve the quality of life for existing residents as well as to attract outside investment from both businesses and potential new residents.

Sajjad returned to Salford Quays later in May with the then Shadow Business Secretary, Ken Clarke, for a tour of the MediaCity:UK development. With over a third of the BBC moving there and with the University of Salford also taking part, the project offers a vision for the region's future as a home of knowledge and pioneering enterprises.

"I was very impressed with the project", said Sajjad, "This is the largest development of its kind in Europe and by far the most significant here in the North West, not just in terms of investment and job creation, but also for the region's reputation as a forward-thinking and innovative place."

"I was particularly interested to hear that MediaCity:UK had attracted nearly £4 billion of private sector investment and less than £300 million of public money: this is excellent news and represents great value for the taxpayer!"



Saj Welcomes Opening of Life Saving Centre

Saj made a visit to mark the opening of The Christie's new £17m radiotherapy satellite centre in Oldham. He took a tour of the brand new facilities and met with some of the staff members who will help to treat over 70 cancer patients a day from across the North West. Saj also witnessed a demonstration of one of the two new state-of-the-art radiotherapy machines – costing £1.3m each.

Saj was delighted to have been invited to see the new satellite centre; the first of its kind in the country. It will provide an invaluable lifeline to those cancer patients who currently have to travel to The Christie's main site in Withington.

"Allowing people from across the North West to receive treatment nearer their home will make a real difference not only to the treatment of their cancer, but also to their overall quality of life", Saj said

"The work done by The Christie and its staff offers a beacon of hope to those families suffering here in the North West. I praise the work they do and give them my very best wishes for the future".

Meeting with Syrian President

In June Sajjad visited Syria to take part in talks between the European Union and the Syrian President, Bashar al-Assad. Talks covered matters relating to the relationship between the European Union, Syria and the Middle East; including the EU-Syria Association Agreement, Iran and the ongoing Israel/Palestine conflict.

Sajjad made the visit with other members of the European Delegation for Mashreq Countries. The

talks discussed ways of increasing the level of cooperation between Syria and the European Union as well as looking at new approaches to enhance peace opportunities in the region.

Sajjad and delegation colleagues underlined the importance of Syria's role in establishing security and stability throughout the Middle East.

Discussions covered the EU-Syria Association Agreement and made it clear that the EU should play a more effective role in the peace process, launch new initiatives and assume the fair mediator role in light of the good relations it already has with Syria.

Commenting on the visit, Sajjad welcomed the positive outcomes of these talks and is very keen to continue to enhance European Union relations with Syria. Sajjad said, "The most recent developments regarding Israel further underline the concerns of Israel's Arab neighbours and the need for us to work together to achieve a lasting peaceful settlement."



Supporting Greater Manchester Fire Service

In April Saj visited Eccles Fire Station and met with Salford Borough Commander, Geoff Ackroyd. He toured the station, meeting staff and seeing key equipment which gave him an insight of the work the Greater Manchester Fire Service undertakes.

He was given a demonstration of the new Water Incident Unit and the new underwater camera equipment by the fire fighting team.

Saj said: "What the Fire Service does in the protection and saving of lives across Greater Manchester, and the region, is second to none and it was great to hear about some of the excellent work they do."



Coalition Plans to Scrap Strasbourg Farce

Sajjad is delighted that the Conservative-led coalition government plans to lobby the EU to scrap the European Parliament's monthly trips to Strasbourg. A statement in the Coalition agreement reads: "We agree that we will press for the European Parliament only to have one seat, in Brussels".

Sajjad and the Conservatives in the European Parliament have been at the forefront of the campaign to have a single European seat in Brussels.

Speaking on the matter, Sajjad said: "I am very pleased to hear this announcement and I hope common sense will prevail. The vast expense of shuttling between the two seats not only undermines the standing of this Parliament, but is also hastening climate change by pumping 20,268 tonnes of CO2 in our atmosphere, which makes a mockery of EU efforts to cut CO2 emissions by 20 per cent by 2020."

At present thousands of European Parliament staff travel 300 miles to the Strasbourg Parliament in France for four days. The Strasbourg travelling circus costs British taxpayers alone around £200 million a year.

Happy Birthday!

On July 11th, Saj celebrated his 40th birthday. He spent the day with his family and friends and enjoyed a well-earned break from his duties as a Member of the European Parliament. Friends and colleagues from across the region join together to congratulate him on this milestone year.

The photograph shows Saj with his two sisters outside the family house on Quarry Street, Blackburn – where he was born.

