

DAVID CAMERON GETS AN INVITE FROM GREAT HARWOOD PUPILS

Sajjad's wife, Zahida Karim, recently presented the Prime Minister with an invitation from the pupils of Great Harwood Primary School where she is a teacher.

She gave the invitation to David Cameron whilst attending a reception with Sajjad at 10 Downing Street. Zahida was excited about the visit as she had never visited Downing Street and was looking forward to meeting the Prime Minister.

When she told pupils at Great Harwood Primary School that she was accompanying Sajjad they were very interested. Zahida said: "They didn't really know much about David Cameron. But when we looked at the Downing Street web site and online tour of they got really enthusiastic." This gave her the idea for

the invitation.

Every child in the class made a contribution and a photo of each pupil was also in the invitation.

Zahida took the opportunity to present the Prime Minister with the invitation at the reception. "The Prime Minister was really interested in reading all the contributions from the children", said Sajjad. "David has 3 children himself and was fascinated, spending quite a long time looking through all the comments and photos".



EUROPEAN CITIZENS INITIATIVE

The European Citizens' Initiative was introduced in the Lisbon Treaty of 2009 and enables the public to call on the European Commission to act on specific issues and pass new laws if required.

This came into force in June 2010. Campaigns run under this procedure must be supported by one million petitioners from at least a third of the 27 member states.

You can find out more about the European Citizens Initiatives by clicking on this link: <http://www.sajjadkarim.eu/content/european-citizens-initiative-kashmir-council-eu>

The Kashmir Council EU, a Brussels based organisation that Sajjad has supported for some time, are already utilising the ECI to highlight the human rights issues of the Kashmiri people and the democratic right of self-determination for Jammu and Kashmir

Launched in Brussels in December last year, the One Million Signatures Campaign has since been promoted in Switzerland, France and Holland, the Kashmir Council brought their campaign to the UK in June, visiting a number of UK cities including Manchester.



Sajjad and Kashmir Council EU members collecting signatures in Manchester

Sajjad organised an event in Manchester to highlight Kashmiri issues and demonstrate how this new legislation - The European Citizens Initiative - can

benefit campaigns like this across Europe.

Speaking at the event Sajjad said that recently the issue of Kashmir has not been as prevalent in the media as it should be. This is in large part due to the volatile situation in so many Arab and Middle Eastern countries at present. By using the European Citizens Initiative the Kashmir Council are seeking to ensure that Europeans everywhere are aware of the plight of

Kashmir and that in due course, when sufficient signatures have been collected, the European Commission will be required to take further action in relation to Kashmir.

ANSWER TO ECONOMIC CRISIS IS NOT MORE "EUROPE"

Sajjad and the Conservatives in the European Parliament voted against proposals that call for more EU integration to prevent a future economic crisis.

The proposals were made by a temporary committee (the CRIS committee), set up by the European Parliament in the wake of the recent global economic crisis. The committee had the brief to investigate the causes of the crisis and to make proposals on how to avert a similar scenario in the future.

Sajjad believes some of the proposals made by the committee are positive suggestions for completing the EU's Single Market and achieving the EU's strategy to make the European economy more competitive. However, the report also calls for national contributions to the EU to increase to between five and ten percent of national GDP. It also calls for EU taxes and a common consolidated tax base.

"The CRIS committee take the view that that more EU integration would have prevented the recent economic crisis and greater EU control of taxation and social policies would have prevented such a crisis in the first place. This is nonsense" said Sajjad.

"There needs to be greater economic governance, but this should be the responsibility of national governments and their treasuries. Adherence to stability and growth is essential, but imposing top-down regulations from Europe is not the answer."

TELL SAJJ YOUR VIEWS

1 Do you support the Conservatives in the European Parliament voting against endorsing the EU Accounts?

Yes No

2 Do you agree with current proposals to increase the EU budget by a further 5%?

Yes No

3 Do you support UNISON's threat of a "wave of strikes" on proposed pension reforms and pay freezes?

Yes No

YOUR CONCERNS

Please indicate issues that interest or concern you

- EU budgets and spending
- Transport
- Tourism
- Business and finance
- International Affairs
- Defence
- Agriculture, farming and fisheries
- Environment and Green issues
- Other: Please detail in box below

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To enable us to communicate with you more effectively, please complete:

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Please return to:
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SAJ DECLARES WAR ON DAMAGING EU BUREAUCRACY

Increased costs and additional bureaucracy the UK incurs as result of EU legislation is a key issue that Sajjad is often asked about. But not all additional costs come directly from the EU and, in many cases, are often the result of so-called 'gold-plating' of EU legislation by national governments.

'Gold-plating' is when a government adds extra regulations and obligations to the original European Union directives when implementing them into national law. These can go far beyond the requirements and lead to excessive additional burdens on businesses.

In April, Sajjad presented proposals for improving the European Union legislative process to the Legal Affairs Committee. He highlighted how gold-plating and the subsequent increased bureaucratic burden, is an on-going problem that needs to be dealt with by European Member States, such as the UK. This includes Member States being required to provide good reasons as to why they

have gone beyond the base requirements of a directive. It is only through harmonising implementation that we can benefit fully from the advantages of the single market.

Sajjad said "Whilst businesses from emerging economies are breathing down our necks, our governments busy themselves with burdening our businesses with more and more unnecessary legislation. This has to stop!"

"Doing business in Europe is already far too costly and time-consuming. Dealing with more bureaucratic rules and regulations added by national governments hits small businesses the hardest and stifles enterprise and wealth creation.

"People blame Europe for the extensive bureaucracy that exists within the UK, when in fact much of it is a result of the last Labour Government's excessive gold-plating of EU legislation."

The Conservative-led UK Government has already adopted 'Guiding Principles' for EU legislation that it will use

when introducing European measures into UK law. Saj will be working with them to ensure these proposals put an end to gold-plating so that British businesses can compete effectively in the European market.



The North West Decides!

In May people across the North West voted overwhelmingly to retain our cherished "first past the post" voting system for UK Parliamentary elections. It was great to see that voters genuinely engaged with the referendum and have seen off this threat to our country's democracy.

May the 5th also gave people the chance to elect their council representatives in local elections. A series of strong and energetic local campaigns meant the Conservative Party held its support across the region.

These were always going to be challenging elections for the Conservative Party following the difficult decisions the Conservative-led Government have had to take over the last twelve months. However, our vote held-up well in the North West and we actually increased our number of councillors across the country!



Saj spent Polling night at the count in Liverpool with young Conservative activists. They are a fantastic team and the organisation is really moving forward in the city.

Saj celebrating with Susan Williams who led the Conservative No to AV campaign, at the North West AV count in Manchester. The AV Referendum result was a significant ratification of our current electoral system and a ringing endorsement of a cornerstone of our democracy: 'one person, one vote'

Saj would like to thank all those who stood for election representing the Conservative Party, together with our activists who have spent months leafleting streets and knocking on doors to win the support and trust of electors. "I have thoroughly enjoyed working

with our teams over the last few months" said Saj. "I know only too well that without the hard work of our candidates, officers, volunteers and activists we could not have achieved anything like the results we achieved this year".

Out and about with Sajjad

Lancashire County Developments Limited is the council's economic development arm. Their role is to support businesses and communities helping to boost investment within Lancashire. Chairman Cllr Michael Welsh briefed Sajjad on current and future projects. Executive member, Cllr Michael Green presented Saj with a Lancashire mug that now sits proudly on his desk in Brussels.



Litecraft in Oldham have been established over 60 years. One of the largest importers of lighting in the UK, they are now manufacturing again. MB Ronnie Abrahams shows Saj the new range of garden furniture that illuminates at night. They are exporting to several countries including China!



Sajjad with Foreign Secretary William Hague at the Conservatives' North West Conference in April



WORKING FOR THE NORTH WEST IN EUROPE

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'QUESTIONABLE' EU CONTRACT LAW PROPOSALS - BAD FOR CONSUMER AND BAD FOR BUSINESS

Sajjad has strongly criticised European Union plans on contract law that would allow consumers and businesses to opt for European Law for their contracts rather than UK domestic law.

The proposals as they stand would produce unclear benefits for consumers and reduce consumer protection due to businesses applying two different types of law to their contracts.

The 'questionable' plans, put forward by a Liberal Democrat MEP, would mean people or businesses choosing either EU law or national law when agreeing a contract, including when purchasing items online. There is no Conservative Liberal Democrat coalition in the European Parliament leaving Liberal Democrats free to pursue a very separate and often different agenda to the Conservative Group.

Such plans would add a whole new set of legal burdens on small businesses as they would have to comply with two sets of law - European and UK - for their contracts. This is likely to heavily increase compliance costs at a time when many of the UK's small businesses are struggling to recover in the wake of the recession.

"Small businesses already spend too much of their time contending with EU regulation without having to apply two



The European Commission is pushing ahead with new contract plans following a hearing addressed by Commission Vice-President Reding. The hearing was organised by Sajjad and his Conservative colleagues, Malcolm Harbour MEP and Ashley Fox MEP.

separate regimes of law to different contracts. Applying a blanket regime of law created at the EU level will ride roughshod over our different legal traditions and customs". said Sajjad

"Consumer groups do not want this, businesses cannot afford it and the Single Market does not need it. These highly dubious plans need to be scrapped before they get off the starting blocks."

Sajjad is working closely with Kenneth Clarke and the UK Government on this. He is very hopeful that these proposals will be successfully blocked in council.

EU-INDIA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

As European Parliamentary Rapporteur for the EU-India Free Trade Agreement (FTA), Sajjad called for the rapid implementation of the agreement during a full session of the Parliament in May. The FTA could increase trade between the two blocs from 69bn in 2009 to 169bn by 2015.

Sajjad praised negotiations that have led to the formulation of the FTA but urged the European Commission to conclude negotiations by the summer. He believes the agreement would bring massive economic benefits to the UK and the North West.

Speaking in Strasbourg, Sajjad also addressed the issue of corruption in India and concerns that the FTA might prevent the poorest from accessing vital medicines:

"It comes as a matter of great encouragement to see how the current Indian government is now facing up to issues of corruption, even to the extent of detaining the Commonwealth Games chief.

"Can I also welcome, Commissioner stating unequivocally that nothing in the agreement would prevent the poorest from accessing life-saving medicines. That, I hope, will give confidence to colleagues in this House as to our approach in these negotiations."

EUROPEAN COURT INSURANCE RULING IS "UTTER MADNESS"

A European Court of Justice ruling will mean women drivers and the elderly will be charged much more for their car insurance as risk assessment for insurance purposes can no longer be based on gender or life expectancy.

The European Court of Justice upheld the opinion of its top adviser and takes the view that singling out women for preferential treatment contravenes Article 8 of the EU Treaty. The ruling will see insurance premiums for female drivers under 26 rise by about 25% according to the Association of British Insurers.

"This ruling is utter madness. It is a setback for common sense", said Saj, "It is a statistical reality that young men have more accidents than women so it should be reflected in their premiums. Similarly, women

benefit from higher life expectancy than men. Logically, this means the risk profile of a male driver or a female seeking health insurance will differ.

The last Labour government is to blame for this. In signing us up to the Lisbon Treaty they have opened the floodgates to nonsense court rulings like this one and now we are paying dearly for the mess they left to the new government. If Labour had given us the referendum on the Treaty as they promised, women might not be facing devastating hikes in already sky-high insurance bills.

"The EU's rules on sex discrimination specifically permit discrimination in insurance if there is data to back it up. Once again we have seen how unelected judges have overruled the will of democratically elected MEPs and governments" said Sajjad.

OPPOSING A SINGLE-EUROPEAN CONSTITUENCY

In April, Conservatives in the European Parliament strongly opposed the creation of an additional single European constituency based on a proposal by Liberal Democrat MEP, Andrew Duff.

The proposal would create 25 extra MEPs elected in 2014 on a single trans-national European list. The new lists would be "gender-balanced" and drawn up by pan-European political parties. The plans would also see a new electoral authority created at EU level.

Sajjad opposes these plans, which would add yet more unnecessary costs to the European taxpayer saying, "Once again federalist MEPs from Labour and the Liberal Democrats, who voted for these proposals, are trying to force a single European identity onto us.

"I am confident that the British government would veto this proposal if it ever came to the European Council. This demonstrates how out of touch many opposition MEPs are. They should stop representing Europe and start representing Britain."

KEY ISSUES UPDATE CONSERVATIVES REFUSE TO ENDORSE EU ACCOUNTS

For the 16th year in a row the EU's Court of Auditors has been unable to give the EU's accounts an unqualified statement of assurance, severely undermining the reputation of the EU and its institutions.

Sajjad and European Conservatives and Reformists group (ECR) are the only major UK delegation to have consistently voted against 'granting discharge' (signing off) to the EU's accounts. The ECR group has also called for a comprehensive spending review across the EU institutions.

Commenting Sajjad said "The European Parliament must provide greater accountability for the huge sums of taxpayer money that it spends. However, much of the problem lies with national governments who in 2006 agreed to self-certify the money they spend on EU programmes yet some have still not delivered on that pledge. This is unacceptable."

The auditors have frequently found irregularities in the EU's accounts yet UK Labour ministers continually agreed to sign them off. Indeed the last Labour government's failure to account for payments in 2008/09 and before has already landed the UK with heavy fines relating to the management of EU farm subsidies and regional development fund monies overseen by the Department of Communities and Local Government.

"This is yet another example of the mess Labour left behind, which the Conservative led Government and British taxpayers are having to clean up. All too often it's easy to blame the EU but people need to hear the whole story" said Sajjad.

EU Budget

Following David Cameron's success in significantly reducing the EU budget increase for this year, the heated debate has started again. The European Parliament has this month called for a massive 5% budget increase compared to the last 7 year budget. Sajjad has labelled these plans as 'totally unacceptable'

"It is not right that European Union continues recklessly spending taxpayers' money at a time when member states are cutting their budgets. MEPs need to grasp the concept of smarter spending. There are literally hundreds of areas where the EU can cut bureaucracy and waste, as well as doing a far better job at a much lower cost to the taxpayer." said Sajjad

CYPRUS PROPERTY SCANDAL

Sajjad has given his support to as many as 50,000 UK citizens who have bought homes in the Republic of Cyprus but have not received their title deeds and are therefore not the legal owners of their properties.

This scandal has come about due to developers having outstanding mortgages on the properties. The buyers have not been aware of this and under Cypriot law, title deeds and full legal ownership cannot be transferred to the new owner until previous mortgages are settled in full.

The consequences for buyers are far-reaching and include being liable to high property charges; huge legal fees; unable to sell the property, and being encumbered with the mortgage of a developer who has gone bankrupt.

As Conservative legal affairs spokesperson, Sajjad strongly believes the practice of withholding property title deeds is, in all circumstances, an unfair commercial practice and an infringement of the EU directive on Unfair Commercial Practices.

Sajjad has co-signed, along with Conservative colleagues, a letter to the EU Justice Commissioner, Viviane Reding, asking for the EU to take urgent action against unscrupulous property developers selling properties without giving information as to the ownership of the title deeds.

Sajjad also written to Prime Minister, David Cameron, asking him to look into UK-based agencies who actively promote Cypriot properties without giving full information to the buyer.

Out and about with Sajjad



Outside Rochdale's historic Town Hall with Conservative Leader Cllr Ashley Dearmley and team. Thanks to a good result in the local elections and some welcome defections from past Liberal Democrats, there are now 17 Conservative Councillors in Rochdale.



In April Sajjad met with members of the 4th Frodsham Scout Group. They received a Community Grant of £1000 from Cheshire West & Chester Council thanks to Cllrs Andrew Dawson and Mark Ingram.



Visiting the Christie Hospitals' new Day Care Centre which opened in November last year. The Christie will soon open a new treatment centre in Salford. The Christie deliver world class treatment and research in cancer care.



June and time for a Celebratory Dinner in Winsford with Eddisbury Conservatives



Raising funds for this May's local elections as guest speaker at Chester Conservatives Dinner with Stephen Mosley MP at the Chester Tandoori. Great food and great company



Cllr Geoff Driver, Leader of Lancashire County Council briefs Saj on key council issues.



Meeting with Executive members of Lancashire County Council, to hear first hand from Leader Cllr Geoff Driver (far left), and the team about the issues they are facing and how they are successfully delivering value for money services across Lancashire



A Sunday in Worsley with Salford Conservatives on a beautiful Spring Day. They really pull together as a team and Sajjad always enjoys catching up with members and their news.



Foreign Secretary, William Hague was key speaker at the Conservatives' North West conference in April. Pictured with Sir Robert Atkins MEP and Jacqueline Foster MEP, Sajjad's Conservative North West colleagues