

EUROPE DIRECT

ISSUES AROUND EUROPE ARE STILL HOT TOPICS AND SAJJAD WANTS TO GIVE LOCAL CONSERVATIVES THE OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE THEIR SAY ON EUROPE

That's why he's launched EUROPE DIRECT - a rolling programme of informal meetings that will extend across the whole of the North West. Sajjad is taking the discussion right back to our grass roots and feedback from our meetings will be invaluable to Sajjad in representing the North West in Europe. Those who attend will be able to put over their views in a completely open environment.

His first three Europe Direct events have been held in Liverpool, Frodsham and Blackpool, proving popular and enjoyable for all members who attended. You can check out more on Europe Direct here <http://www.sajjadkarim.eu/europe-direct/>

Please contact Sue Gillett should you have any questions or would like have a EUROPE DIRECT event in your constituency 07776 144870 or email: sue.gillett@sajjadkarim.eu



Left - Simon Renwick takes the floor at Europe Direct in Blackpool

Above - Frodsham Europe Direct - Mark Ingram speaks up

Left - Europe Direct launch in Liverpool

CONDEMNING SYRIAN VIOLENCE

As a British MEP, Sajjad has been vocal in highlighting the Syrian regime's abhorrent violence against its own people. He made speeches in the European Parliament as early as September 2011 calling for President Assad to resign and in January he hosted a Conference in the European Parliament, giving a platform to Syrian opposition groups encouraging them to work more closely together.

"The brutality of the Syrian government appears to know no bounds", said Sajjad. With massacres reported on a daily basis no words can appropriately describe the wickedness of these acts.

"After 18 months of slaughter, the EU and the rest of the international community need to up the pressure on the Syrian leader.

"Syrian opposition groups play a crucial part in bringing peace to Syria. But peace at this moment seems very far off the horizon."



King Abdullah II of Jordan and Sajjad agree that more work needs to be done to form a united Syrian opposition

Unspent Structural Funds

Sajjad has backed calls by the European Commission President, José Manuel Barroso, to use billions of pounds of unspent EU money on creating growth and jobs.

Currently there is €2billion of structural funds unspent across the EU with €1.5billion in the UK, allocated mainly to the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the European Social Fund (ESF),

"We need to use that money to help fund small businesses and help them obtain finance. said Sajjad "Small businesses are the driving force of our economy and visiting companies across the North West I hear the same thing over and over. Companies want to expand and employ more staff but the banks have a closed door policy. One and half billion won't solve the problem but it will help to ease the crisis. We must support our entrepreneurs and do what we can to ensure they have the tools to do the job.

"Member states have until the end of 2013 to draft, approve and implement new programmes to use the funds and I will be asking the UK to ensure the North West gets its fair share."

TELL SAJJ YOUR VIEWS

Saj welcomes feedback on issues you are interested in or concerned about. Please use the box below to share your views:

I would like to receive Saj's newsletter and E-Bulletin by email

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

Name

Address

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

SIMPLIFYING VEHICLE REGISTRATION ACROSS THE EU

Sajjad and his Conservative colleagues in Europe have welcomed plans to make it cheaper and simpler to re-register a motor vehicle between EU countries.

Proposals from the European Commission would end the lengthy procedure in registering a vehicle according to national legislation. Currently it takes on average 5 weeks to complete at a high cost to both citizens and businesses.

The plans would help those who spend part of the year in another EU country as well as rental companies hopefully

leading to lower rental prices. The measures would also aim to make it impossible to re-register a stolen car in any EU state.

Sajjad said: "These proposals will help end the lengthy bureaucratic registration which are out of sync with the 21st Century free market.

"The current system represents a significant barrier to the free movement of people and goods, and therefore harms job creation and economic growth across Europe."

ENDING LONG-DISTANCE TRANSPORT OF ANIMALS IN THE EU

In February, Sajjad, signed Written Declaration 49/2011 calling upon the Commission to impose an 8-hour limit on journey times for animals in transportation.

The issue of animal suffering and the reoccurring breaches of EU rules on the transport of animals is an area of great concern for both Sajjad and

the Conservatives in the European Parliament.

Sajjad has received hundreds of emails from constituents and animal welfare groups calling for a strict, finite journey time to be imposed across the EU. He will continue to ensure that the Commission listens to concerns and legislate to safeguard the welfare of animals in transportation.

Published by Sajjad Karim (ECR Group) Conservatives in the European Parliament, c/o NWCCC, 14b Wynford Sq, West Ashton St, Salford M50 2SN - Printed by CSM Limited • www.csm-limited.com



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Sajjad Karim LLB (Hons)
MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
Legal Affairs Spokesperson

Dear Friends

We have low interest rates, public spending under control, a pro-business government and de-regulation agenda starting to take hold. So what's missing? Why haven't we returned to growth? The simple answer is CONFIDENCE.

How damaging is the negative language and gloom of so many heavyweight policy-makers and forecasters who queue up to be on the TV or radio to talk Britain into a depression similar to, or even worse than, that of the 1930s.

I wouldn't dare diminish the hardships of unemployment but those people who lived through the terrible experience of poverty and soup kitchens during the 1930s, or those who recall the chaos of the three-day week and the humiliation of the IMF bailing out Britain in the 1970s, will surely find such hyperbole hard to take.

The question to ask is this: What effect does all doom and gloom have on the entrepreneur who is about to take his house on a business dream?

Such dire talk has the potential to be a self-fulfilling prophecy.

Look at Vauxhall at Ellesmere Port; every expert predicted the end of car production. We focused on the negative and ignored basic facts like the plant was the most efficient in the company with a flexible workforce and a union not constrained by 1970's dogma.

Thankfully Vauxhall's parent company looked at the facts and the new generation of Astra is to be built in Ellesmere Port creating thousands of jobs and even more in the supply chain.

This came on the back of Jaguar Land Rover and Regatta Clothing investing heavily in the town.

When the IMF gave a fairly positive report on the British economy we focused on the negative and once again we had apocalyptic predictions

The doom-mongers have the microphone and we need to wrestle it from them.

The IMF report drowned out the news about UK exports that had increased by £9billion more than had been predicted and exports to EU countries — our biggest market — have increased by 6 per cent this year.

A recent survey carried out in the North West show 46% of firms plan to take on new staff in the coming year, while 44% expect staff levels to remain the same, due to strong business enquiries

Plus two thirds of firms said their exports had increased last year and most expect to increase exports this year too

The North West remains the UK's biggest region for manufacturing, with a total output worth £16.1bn and employing 315,000 people.

The crisis in the Eurozone is debilitating and, without more decisive EU leadership, will get worse. Everyone agrees that recovery from the dramatic downturn which began in 2008 will be a slow and painful. However, it is sheer madness to adopt the language of despair and talk about Britain as if we really were in the 1930s.

Let's celebrate and shout about the positive; we've earned the right.

Sajjad H Karim MEP LLB(Hons)



Sajjad welcomed the Prime Minister back to Manchester when he joined key community and business leaders at Cinnabar and Vermilion, hosted by Sajjad.

good
HAVE I GOT NEWS FOR YOU

Welcome news for BAE Systems

Sajjad is currently undertaking a Fellowship with the Industry and Parliament Trust, part of which involves spending time at all the BAE Systems sites in the North West and he's welcomed recent good news for their three main plants.

A £1.6bn order for 22 BAE Systems Hawk Advanced Jet Trainer aircraft for the Royal Saudi Air Force has secured hundreds of jobs at their plants in at Warton and Salmesbury, near Preston and the aircraft will be delivered from 2016.

Meanwhile up in Barrow-in-Furness, the Government has announced it is handing a £328m contract to BAE to design the replacement of the Trident nuclear deterrent. Sajjad visited BAE Systems in Barrow earlier this year. He saw current Trident submarines under construction and discussed issues regarding future contracts with senior management. This new funding will help secure BAE's future as a major employer in Barrow for years to come.

Around 1,000 people work on the new class of submarines at the Barrow site, and in February BAE announced plans to create an additional 280 new jobs this year.

More great North West news:

- Cammell Laird just delivered first section of new HMS Queen Elizabeth Aircraft carrier.
- M&S Money growing site in Chester to offer new products.
- Wincanton in Rochdale to run Asda logistics creating 400 jobs.
- Blackpool based Amber Taverns record profits.
- Liverpool-based Cains Brewery returning to profit after 20 years.
- Manchester based Printing.com sees profits rise sharply.
- Macclesfield based FastTrak wins contract to supply new lotto terminals and more than doubles its workforce.
- Safeline, Salford awarded the Queens Award for Enterprise for International Trade as exports increase.
- Manchester based luxury menswear label D E & S, benefit from increased demand for Made in Britain going global via the web.
- Merseyside Entrepreneur, Tony Caldeira, expects to increase exports to North America this year bringing more jobs to his Knowsley base.
- BAE £1.6bn Saudi jets contract preserves jobs in Lancashire plants.

CAMMELL LAIRD "A MODEL FOR ALL MERSEYSIDE BUSINESSES"

On a recent visit to Cammell Lairds' iconic site in Birkenhead, Sajjad toured the yard and saw sections being built for the new Queen Elizabeth Aircraft Carrier as well as ferries and RFA Waver Ruler being maintained for their maritime licenses.

Over a thousand skilled people now work at the site and last year Lairds put over fifty million back into the local economy. Commenting on his visit Saj said "A decade after the company went bankrupt and Laird's turnover is expected to pass £100 million this year for the first time. But what impresses me most is the commitment shown to the local community. There is a fantastic apprentice scheme taken from the local population and even the sub-contractors tend to be Merseyside based.

"It was honour to walk the quays of the historic site and learn about future plans. Lairds work in a very tough economic market and has grown



itself out of difficulties and we can all learn from them."

Managing Director Linton Roberts and Finance Director Allan Wood showed Sajjad around the site following discussions on future projects. "It's very clear that businesses like Cammell Laird need new and more open markets in which to trade. I can assure them I have listened to their concerns and will do all I can to be a strong ally as they continue to rebuild the Cammell Laird brand" said Sajjad.

Out and about with Sajjad



Saj and the Chancellor with North West Officers Adrian Mitchell and Rob Bailey at the North West Conference



Global Entrepreneurship Congress in Haywood of Natalie



Saj with Salford Mayor candidate, Cllr Karen Garrido at Media City in April



Sajjad met with Councillors and Officers of Cheshire East Council to discuss issues around procurement protocols

SAJJAD LEADING ON EU REFORM AGENDA

Sajjad and colleague Malcolm Harbour MEP are taking the lead on delivering the reforms that are helping to evolve an EU that is right for business and right for Britain. At the end of May, Saj presented his report on 'Better Legislation' to the Legal Affairs Committee.

The report which aims to cut EU red tape, is the latest in his ongoing commitment to cut back unnecessary bureaucracy. Saj is continuing his work into making the law-making process simple and transparent. Commenting on this most recent report he said:

"I relished the challenge of authoring this report as I believe the EU needs to slash red tape, repeal job-destroying employment legislation and embrace competition and free trade with the Single Market at its core.

"Changes already introduced as a result of my last report have made a huge difference to SMEs in the UK and across the EU, reversing the burden of proof so now

SME are excluded from legislation unless the Commission can prove to the contrary. "My reports are in effect rewriting the rules by which we make legislation – ensuring the EU does not go beyond what is necessary and strengthening the hand of national parliaments to take more decisions at national, regional or local level.

"Well-intentioned interference from politicians doesn't promote growth they stunt it. We need the entrepreneurial spirit more than ever. Much has been done but there is far more to do. The EU is standing in the way of competition and ultimately growth. Its well-meaning desire to intervene is in fact creating the biggest social injustice of them all – unemployment."

David Cameron and the Conservative team want to rip up unnecessary red tape, scrapping regulations that are stifling economic growth. Our Conservative MEPs are working on a day to day basis to deliver on that agenda.

JLR CELEBRATE SUCCESS

Sajjad recently spent a day with a Jaguar Land Rover at Halewood, Liverpool. Saj toured the plant where the Freelander and the new Evoque are now manufactured. Since its launch in July last year, over 50,000 Evoques have come off the production line with 75% being exported.



Operations Manager, Richard Else (Pictured above) briefed Sajjad on the history of Halewood and the purchase of Jaguar Land Rover by TATA in 2008, Richard detailed that currently China is the biggest market for JLR. Sajjad is creating a further 1000 jobs at the North West plant to support both the huge demand for the Freelander and Evoque and JLR's ambitious plans for global growth.

Sajjad was impressed with commitment of the workforce. Most who start as apprentices go on to full time permanent employment.

Responding to the news Sajjad said "This is a real testament to the dedication and skill of staff already employed at the Halewood site and it is fantastic to have another North West success story to celebrate. Jaguar Land Rover are determined to find new markets and that is something we politicians can do to help."

Sajjad toured the plant where he saw aspects of production by robots and the intensive hands on side of finishing the internal trim.

Saj went on to put the Evoque through its paces off road at the Land Rover Adventure Centre – Thrilling, exciting and just a little bit nerve wracking!

CONSUMER AGENDA

Sajjad has been at the forefront of a number of EU initiatives that aim to break-down the barriers for trade across the European Single Market.

In May, he gave his support to a new EU agenda setting out a range of initiatives to improve consumer confidence when buying from other countries within the EU. The agenda also aims to increase cross-border economic activity and boost economic growth across the continent.

The 'European Consumer Agenda' has been adopted by the European Commission to increase market confidence. These involve improving consumer protection rules when buying from another EU country; raising consumer awareness of rights when shopping across borders (including online); stepping-up enforcement and

securing redress, and aligning consumer rights and policies to changes in society and the economy.

Sajjad said: "The new European Consumer Agenda is not only an important step in further opening-up the Single Market for consumers, but also an important initiative that will help to foster economic growth across the EU.

"Consumers make-up a massive 56% of all EU GDP, yet many still find themselves held back, both physically and psychologically, from their right to shop across the EU. This ambitious agenda aims to end that.

"By giving consumers clearer and stronger protection when buying across Europe, especially when online, shoppers should feel as safe buying a product or service from another EU country as they should from their local High Street.

Local Elections – A mid-term snapshot?

There's an argument that mid-term elections are a snapshot and not a forecast, but that's cold comfort for those Conservative candidates and their teams who had put in so much work and commitment, often for many years, only to be unsuccessful this May. We have lost some incredibly dedicated Councillors and Sajjad pays a warm tribute to their work over many years.

This year's local elections didn't tell us anything new but remind us of what we already know – that the David Cameron and the Conservative led Government is still facing incredibly demanding economic problems plus the knock-on effect of troubles across the Euro zone and many other countries worldwide.

The Prime Minister is a resourceful, adaptable leader who has acknowledged the loss of those hardworking

Conservative Councillors. He is taking difficult decisions, trying to bring the country out of the debt and deficit we inherited from Labour. We know there are no easy answers.

Saj was pleased to support many campaigns across the North West including our Mayoral candidates Karen Garrido in Salford and Tony Caldeira in Liverpool, both of whom did a fantastic job. Conservatives from the North West also travelled to London to help ensure Boris' re-election as Mayor.



Saj spent time campaigning in this year's local government elections with Stretford and Urmston candidates including Cllr Linda Blackburn accompanied by Mark Comes and Cllr Mike Comes

SAJJAD TOASTS CAINS SUCCESS

Ten years after Liverpool's Cains Brewery almost closed for good the company is predicting it will return to profitability next year. Sajjad visited the brewery shortly before Cains confirmed a nationwide deal with Tesco. 300 stores will stock a lower alcohol Calcutta Pale Ale created exclusively for Tesco



Established by Robert Cain in 1856, tight margins brought it to the brink of closure in 2002 and the Dusanj brothers stepped in. Cains is now one of the fastest growing breweries in the country, with a £30 million annual turnover, 150 employees, and more than 120 million pints of beer brewed annually.

The first Asian family ever to run a British brewery, the brothers are building on the fine traditions of excellent quality ales.

Sajjad, who is also working on the new EU/India Free Trade agreement, said, "This is a fantastic achievement. Cains is a great brand and important local icon. It was an honour to tour the brewery and learn about their operation."

BRINGING COMPETITION TO AUDITING

As Conservative Legal Affairs Spokesperson, Sajjad was this year appointed as the European Parliament's lead negotiator on new EU reforms that aim to inject competition into the audit market, which is currently dominated by just four big companies.

The reforms aim to give smaller firms the chance to establish themselves in the market through proposals that will force large businesses to rotate their auditors every six years and make public companies use two firms jointly. Restrictions are also being proposed to stop firms offering non-audit services (such as tax advice) to businesses if they are already providing them with audit services.

Speaking on the reforms, Sajjad said: "The Commission's proposals are radical and will force a major shake-up of the audit market. There are many big challenges ahead and there has been extensive lobbying from the big firms, though the key argument remains that it is in the public interest to have more players in the market.



Discussing audit reform with Commissioner Michel Barnier

"This is the most challenging dossier of my 20 year political career, but I want to listen to and cooperate with all interested stakeholders and ensure that some consensus is reached before we move forward"

Policing MEPs' Code of Conduct

"In the 21st century we don't just have to do right; we have to be seen to be doing right.

It is with this background that the parliament has introduced the first ever code of conduct for members." – Sajjad Karim is the only British MEP to sit on the European Parliament's Advisory Committee of the new MEP code of conduct.

The Advisory Committee will police new rules and Sajjad is one of only five MEPs to be appointed by the Parliament's President to this panel which advise him on what steps to take in the event of alleged breaches of the code.

The new code of conduct came into force on January 1st this year and aims to strengthen and clarify existing rules. The Constitutional Affairs Committee has compared the new rules with national equivalents and aims to guarantee the highest level of transparency. This includes an explicit ban on receiving payments or other rewards; clear rules on the acceptance of gifts, and rules governing former MEPs who work as lobbyists.

Sajjad said, "The relationship between public and politician has been at an all-time low. A small number of MEP's have been accused of corruption and we all have our own national stories, such as the Westminster expenses scandal of 2009.

"This code of conduct demands transparency from Members right across the continent and will provide a strong shield against unethical behaviour. Embrace the code and we become a part of the solution. This should go some way to restoring the public's trust."

FIGHTING EXTORTIONATE INTERNATIONAL PHONE BILLS

A major shake-up in the mobile market means cheaper phone calls and data downloads for North West holidaymakers travelling in Europe, from July. Customers can sign-up to a second mobile provider when travelling abroad, as an alternative to their UK service-provider, and still be able to use their same number.

Saj believes these new plans approved by the European Parliament in May, will help tackle the root cause of high roaming prices by bringing real competition to mobile communications across Europe. This will drive down prices for voice and data services to people travelling for leisure or business. With the cost of everything going up this is a rare piece of good news for consumers.

Saj said the proposals are a positive example of how the European Union and the single market can benefit its citizens. "It's a welcome step and marks the end of the unwelcome "bill shock" when people come back from a holiday, but service providers themselves should be doing more to lower their prices."

Saj is supporting the Manchester Debating Union's bid for the European Universities Debating Championship 2013 to be held here in Manchester and has pledged his full support to the bid.



Out and about with Sajjad



Saj with Liverpool mayoral candidate Tony Caldeira being interviewed by Larry Neil for City Talk Radio in April



Briefing members from the North West visiting the European Parliament in May



Conservative Future Jubilee Celebrations



Local Government Campaign 2012 in Hyde with our Stalybridge team



Local Government Campaign 2012 in Longsight, Manchester with Mohammed Afzal and supporters



Chairing a lively workshop in the European Parliament on how to make the EU more accessible to citizens, reduce the burden of EU regulation and support SME's in the North West.