

Sajjad and Lord Brittan hammer out EU trade strategy

In November Sajjad met with David Cameron's trade advisor, Lord (Leon) Brittan, in Brussels to discuss various EU trade matters that would affect the UK.



Lord Brittan served in Margaret Thatcher's government in the 1980s and then as an EU Commissioner until 1999.

Sajjad found their talks fascinating as Lord Brittan has been a leading political figure for many years and Saj now had the opportunity to sit across the table from him hammering out trade issues on behalf of the UK.

Saj welcomes Lord Brittan's appointment as his knowledge and experience are much needed in the current economic climate.

Pakistan Flood Relief

Sajjad has been at the forefront of efforts to raise money to help the millions of people affected by the severe flooding in Pakistan. As Chairman of the European Parliament Friends of Pakistan Group, Sajjad has lobbied the Commission to raise the level of funding to a total €70m in aid.



Sajjad also organised a fundraising dinner in Manchester at the end of August. The first step was a £10 donation from Cumbria County Councillor Alan Kennon when Saj was visiting Cockermouth a few days before the event, which ended in raising £150,000 for the disaster relief funds.

Sajjad has since succeeded in getting tariff reductions for Pakistan's trade with the EU to help assist in the country's long-term recovery. In September he visited Pakistan to meet with the Prime Minister and other key officials, as well as assess the flood damage for himself.



The EU Budget

Over the last few months Sajjad has been approached by many constituents and Conservative Party members expressing their concern about the proposed increase in the European Union's budget for 2011.

Sajjad agrees people have every right to be alarmed about the ludicrous proposal for an increase of 6%, at a time when we in the UK have to tighten our belts amid public spending cuts. Sajjad and the Conservatives in the European Parliament have always opposed such a steep increase, in fact Sajjad has consistently called to freeze the budget at 2010 levels.

As is often the case in European negotiations, Britain's hands became tied to an increase by pressure from other member states. However, Sajjad congratulates our Prime Minister David Cameron on taking the lead and gaining

the support of other European leaders to win a guarantee that next year's budget should not rise above 2.91%. Cameron's deal marked a major step towards reigning in the excesses of the EU budget and of EU spending.

At time of writing, budget negotiations are still being debated by the European Parliament with an outcome expected soon. As every % point increase in the budget represents yet another £100m of British taxpayer's money, Sajjad believes it is simply not right that we should take tough steps to control our deficit in the UK whilst the EU continues to recklessly spend.



TELL SAJ YOUR VIEWS

EU Budget - Do you agree with Saj that there should be a freeze on the EU budget?

Yes No

Ireland - Do you think the proposed loans to Ireland from the EU, IMF and UK government will help stabilise the Irish economy?

Yes No

Coalition - Do you think the Coalition Government's Comprehensive Spending Review will improve our economic situation:

Short term Long term
 Not at all

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

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

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The Heath – A Re-generation model.

Saj recently visited the Heath Business and Technical Park in Runcorn. The Heath site is the former UK headquarters of chemicals giant ICI. But with the rundown of the site it was purchased in 2003 by SOG Ltd, a new privately-run company with four former ICI managers working with a local businessman. The 60-acre site has been transformed into a business and technical park with 185 resident companies from over 25 different business sectors.

SOG Ltd has attracted nearly 2,000 new jobs, many in the scientific and research and development sectors, replacing those when ICI ceased operations. SOG is now extending

the site by 40% which will generate at least another 1,000 jobs.

Speaking on his visit, Saj said: "I think there's real potential for duplication of what I've seen here. Bearing in mind the economic cycle we're currently in; the sorts of challenges we're going to be facing – not just in the UK but right across the European Union.

"The hi-tech skills-base that continues to exist here is really cutting edge, it's right there on the innovative front, pushing the boundaries forward – that's quite clear to me. And it's absolutely vital



Specialist glass blower, Paul Le-Pinnet, with Dr Peter Cook and Sajjad.

that if we, as a country, are going to grow in the years to come, that those skill-bases are protected and given the right environment in which to flourish."

Supporting our North West Conservative network



Meeting with Bolton Conservative Group

Oldham West and Royton Annual Dinner

Chatting to Chum Eric Pickles MP, DCLG Secretary of State

Cumbria County Council Group Away Day Planning meeting

Please return to:

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EURO NEWS FROM SAJJAD - KEEPING YOU INFORMED

Sajjad's work as Conservative Legal Affairs Spokesperson

Improving the EU Law-making Process

Sajjad is Legal Affairs Spokesperson for the Conservative Group in the EP. This involves working to improving the law-making process across the EU and ensure Britain gets the best deal from any decisions that are made.

At their September session in Strasbourg the Parliament considered a European Commission report on improving law-making. The report sets out the European Parliament's position in the formation and development of policy and strategy for better regulation across Europe. This includes subsidiarity; the principle that the process of law-making should be devolved to the lowest competent authority.

In a key note speech Sajjad spoke out strongly for a reduction in the administrative and bureaucratic burden of the current law-making process saying "Better Law-making



Saj with the Legal Affairs Team

is a challenge of vital importance for the future of an EU that is relevant for citizens of our Member states. Much of the good law-making that we do in this house is unfortunately negated firstly by the large number of completely unnecessary regulations that still sit on our statute books and all the administrative burden that places on the back bone of the EU economy"

Sajjad believes that national parliaments, such as Britain's, should play a full part in the formation and development of EU laws and that decisions should be taken as closely as possible to the citizen and will continue to work to this end.

Constituency Week

MEPs get four designated Constituency Weeks a year. Not for some additional R&R but to spend out and about in their constituency... the North West in Saj's case. He did a total of 18 visits during the week, all really fascinating and informative. The thing Saj enjoys the most is meeting so many people from so many walks for life - from a 105 year old to speaking to 319 Year 7 pupils in Bolton.

Saj meets members of the Asian Elders Resource Centre, Bolton. The gentleman on his right is 105!



Washington DC

In October Sajjad visited Washington D.C. with other members of the European Parliament's Legal Affairs Committee to discuss international copyright regulations and intellectual property rights which have wide-ranging implications on businesses and individuals in this country, with officials from the US copyright office, the US chamber of Commerce together with Senators and Congressmen.



at White House with Lady Cathy Ashton, High Representative of the European Union

In discussions the committee outlined the many ways in which EU countries, such as the UK, can work with the US to ensure that intellectual property rights are upheld on both sides of the Atlantic.

Some of the meetings took place in the White House, which was a fascinating experience, even if Sajjad didn't get to meet President Obama himself!

Merseyside Fire and Rescue gains European Funding

In September Saj was invited to the launch of Merseyside and Rescue's FAAIR Project at their Headquarters in Bootle. He gave a speech about the benefits of European Funding and cooperation following the Fire Service's successful bid for European funding for their Fire Awareness, Accommodation & Integration for Refugees (FAAIR) project. The project aims to help give fire safety training and better housing provision to refugees on Merseyside as well as help to integrate them in the local community.



Sajjad with Chief Fire Officer Tony McGuirk and Project Manager Simon Chapman

EU Ruling to help our Small Businesses

Sajjad welcomes tougher EU rules on the late payment of bills, which will help assist small businesses with an issue that is a consistent problem in their day to day operation.

For over a year Sajjad and Conservatives in the European Parliament pushed for stricter, clear-cut rules on payment periods to improve business solvency and boost innovation and jobs. In November the EP finally endorsed a deal setting down a standard 30-day deadline for both public and private sectors to pay bills for goods and services unless another date is fixed in the contract.

Sajjad said "These new rules imposing stricter payment time limits will really assist the region's smaller firms in these challenging economic times. So often smaller enterprises suffer at the hands of larger organisations, yet these businesses are vital for our economy in the creation of jobs and economic stability."

Conservative Party Conference

Sajjad attended the Conservative Party Conference in Birmingham. As well as catching up with friends and colleagues, he took part in numerous events and receptions - many directly related to the North West.

The Conservative Business Day was a chance for leading members of Britain and Europe's business community to link in with Conservative politicians on an array of policy areas. Sajjad had been asked to take part and enjoyed meeting and providing advice to several key business people on European business legislation and legal affairs issues. He also learnt a lot too!

Sajjad attended a really useful lunch arranged by Cllr Susan Bray and Conservatives at Work, meeting key representatives from energy industries. He also chaired discussions at a Law Society lunch when legal practitioners were able to discuss and give their responses to various legal issues relating to Europe and EU legislation.

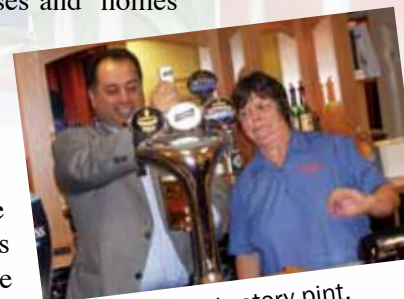
COCKERMOUTH REVITALISED AFTER FLOODS.

Visiting Cockermouth in August, Saj was able to see just some of the devastation after last November's floods. Accompanied by Cllr Alan Kennon, Saj saw the real improvements that are being made with assistance from the County Council and other agencies. Dynamic new businesses are starting up, helping to bring new companies and customers into the town centre

Sajjad returned in October to formally

open the Cockermouth Conservative Club following extensive refurbishments. Like most of the local businesses and homes in the town, the ground floor of the Club was completely wrecked in the flood. It has taken months to recover and rebuild and when he visited in August Saj was amazed at how the whole town pulled together. The

results of sensitive redevelopments mean the town has benefited and property improved. The Club is no exception. The warm reception he received proves it is at the heart of the community. The refurbishments mean that once again the facilities and events run by the Club will be enjoyed by members and residents.



Saj pulls a celebratory pint.

CUMBRIA'S ENERGY COAST

November's constituency week saw Sajjad on the Cumbrian coast in Silloth with County Councillor Tony Markley. Community Renewable Energy North West (CoRE NW), plan to set up a number of co-operatives developing Anaerobic Digester plants, which will produce electricity and heat from farmers' manure and silage.

Middle Farm is the first to be developed and the £3.5m digester will be operational within 12 months. It will produce just under 1MW of power a year, enough electricity to supply about 2,000 homes. Expectations are that the facility could achieve payback in six years. Profits of around £100,000 a year will go towards setting up three more anaerobic digestion plants, as well as supporting other community renewable energy projects. Research suggests farmers involved in an AD scheme could see an annual income of £20,000.

The County Council has also passed plans for an additional site at Dryholme Farm, owned by Blackpool based Farmgen Ltd. who also have a site in Fylde. Visiting Dryholme, Director Simon Rigby explained how high-energy crops eaten by bacteria will produce methane to be turned into electricity. One thousand acres of maize, put into an AD plant, will produce £1m-worth of electricity.

Sajjad sits on the European Parliament's Industry, Research and Energy Committee and fully supports the wide range of innovative renewable energy proposals under development on Cumbria's energy coast.



Saj with Cllr Tony Markley and Simon Rigby of Farmgen at Dryholme Farm