

SUPPORTING WORLD HEART DAY

17.1 million people die every year of heart disease and strokes. Sajjad recently supported World Heart Day. The World Heart Federation joined forces with MEPs to promote measures that will help reduce the burden of cardiovascular diseases across Europe. Commenting on World Heart Day, Saj said, "We all know the arguments about smoking, unhealthy diet and physical inactivity but it doesn't hurt to be reminded of them".



NORTH WEST BUSINESS LEADERSHIP TEAM

An independent group of influential business leaders, the NWBLT members work with the mission to make the North West the UK's most attractive region in which to live and work for generations to come. Set up in 1990, membership comprises of 25 senior executives from the region's major businesses.

Sajjad recently attended one of the NWBLT members' regular meeting to give members a European perspective on key issues affecting North West businesses.

NWBLT also held a fringe meeting at the Conservative Conference in Manchester where Saj joined colleagues to promote their four action areas :- Skills for Business; Promoting the Region's Advantages; Innovation and Sustainable Development; and National and International Links.

Seasonal Greetings

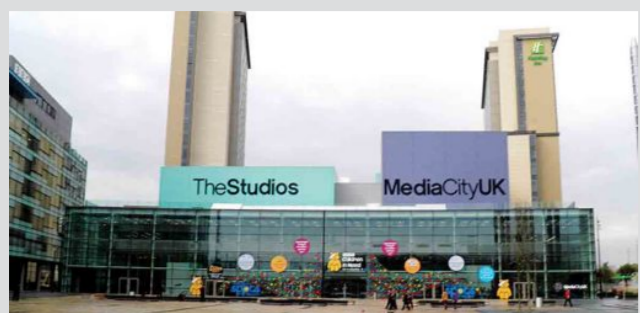
Around Europe we have very different traditions for Christmas and the New Year. All of them convey a message about tolerance, love and understanding. Whatever our religious beliefs, this is a time to reflect on the past year and look forward to the new. It is a time for celebrating our diversity and wishing for peace and harmony in our world which has far too much violence, strife, intolerance and increasing inequity.

TEAM KARIM

send you very best wishes for this festive season and the year ahead.

*Saj David Simon Sajid
Kareem Sue*

The Studios. The new home of the BBC



Saj visits MediaCityUK

On a visit to MediaCityUK Sajjad was briefed by Director of Communications, Paul Newman as they viewed the quay side community developed by the Peel Group.

MediaCityUK is the new home for the BBC and the University of Salford. It also has a Holiday Inn, Booths, a dental practice and this year won the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce building of the year award. ITV and Coronation Street will also take up residence.

"Things have changed beyond belief since my last visit. Completion of main construction, the new tram stop and fantastic piazza means that people can quickly access the site for work and leisure" said Sajjad

"Salford, Manchester and the whole of the North West can be proud of what is being achieved by the collaborative partners. Not just by the larger corporations involved but the multitude of SMEs that are growing up around this global hub. What's more, it's working for the whole community"

PHOTO CAPTION COMPETITION

Send in your caption to Saj and the best entry will receive a bottle of champagne



Write your caption here:

TELL SAJJ YOUR VIEWS

Britain's relationship with the European Union Is it time for Britain to rethink its relationship with the EU?

- We should seek reform of the EU so that it better serves the purpose for which it exists
- Britain should withdraw from the European Union immediately

Additional comments

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

Phone*

Email*

Data protection act: The information you supply us with will be treated by the Conservative Party in the strictest confidence in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and will not be passed on to any third party. From time to time we may contact you with further details of Party policy. By giving us your email address and/or mobile phone number you are agreeing to receive communications and information from us by email or SMS.

We will not pass your personal details to third-parties without your consent. If you DO NOT wish to have your data stored by the Conservative Party, please mark a cross in this box

Please return to:

Sajjad Karim MEP, c/o NWCCC, 14b Wynford Square, West Ashton St, Salford M50 2SN

Sajjad Karim MEP

Winter 2011

Putting the North West First



FIGHTING FOR A EUROPE THAT WORKS FOR BRITAIN

Saj with Business Development manager Collin Sharpe, County Councillor Tony Markley & Port Manager Jeremy Lehou



Port of Workington

A visit to the Port of Workington gave Sajjad the opportunity to tour the largest port from Liverpool to the Clyde. Saj met with stakeholders at the Port who have secured a £5.7m investment through Britain's Energy Coast initiative. Speaking after meeting the Port's Management, colleagues from the County Council, Iggesund and Britain's Energy Coast Sajjad said: "It's great to see the extensive regeneration plans for Workington. The implementation of new services, improvements to facilities and the introduction of a weekly container service to Rotterdam, will see Workington become a key player in European shipping and freight distribution."



Dear Friends

We can't escape the current turmoil in the Eurozone; it's on our TV screens and in our newspapers. The temptation is to say 'we told you so', but this is a calamity that will easily engulf the UK and threaten British jobs and British recovery.

Fifty per cent of our exports go to other parts of Europe and 40% to the Eurozone. Simply put, what's bad for the Eurozone is bad for us. What we need is a challenge by leading the charge for the EU to take quick and decisive action on promoting growth and helping our businesses to create jobs, rather than just standing on the side-lines sniping; that is not what you elected us for. David Cameron was right to support the IMF in preference to pumping cash into the Eurozone bailout fund. The IMF demands a far higher standard when tough decisions to reign in public expenditure whilst fostering an environment based on free enterprise, free trade and value for money. We are pushing for Parliament to vote to increase next year's budget by £188 billion.

Crunch negotiations on the EU are always portrayed as historic moments. But the EU is genuinely experiencing a decisive period that will determine its future direction. We are supporting David Cameron's "Let's Choose Growth" agenda over ever closer political ties.

Finally, your Conservative MEPs get little coverage of their achievements in the British media. To counter this, my team has improved our website, so please do take a look at www.sajjadkarim.eu. You can also use Facebook and Twitter to keep in touch so please take part in the conversation.

Sajjad H Karim MEP L.L.B(Hons)

SAJJ SLASHES BUSINESS RED TAPE

As ECR Legal Affairs Spokesman, Sajjad has authored a key report to the European Parliament detailing ways to reduce the burden of red tape and regulation suffered by British and other European businesses by 25% by 2012.

Commenting on his report Sajjad said, "North West businesses know only too well what it is like to suffer under EU red tape and the cost of setting up a business in Europe is four times the set up cost in the US, Brazil or India".

Saj is tackling this issue with fellow Conservative MEPs like Malcolm Harbour, "The current stack of rules and regulations stifle business growth and are playing a part in holding back economic recovery. We have to break the EU instinct to legislate on everything and aim for a statute that is relevant, targeted and clear." said Sajjad

Sajjad's report was adopted by the Parliament and also received praise from Mark Prisk MP Minister of State, Business and Enterprise, who wrote to congratulate and thank Sajjad.

Dear Saj,

BIS | Department for Business Innovation & Skills

"I would also like to congratulate you on your role in bringing this important debate to the European Parliament. It is now imperative we keep up the momentum and deliver on these ideas in order to achieve some real change to European businesses. Your report, and the recent announcement of the European Parliament to create a dedicated impact assessment unit are two important signals of the Parliament's commitment to better regulation. I very much look forward to our continued work in this area".

Mark Prisk MP Minister of State, Business and Enterprise
Conservative North West England

Out and about with Sajjad



Supporting Merseyside, Sajjad at Liverpool's Pier Head landing stage which has received ERDF funding. The North West has been allocated €755 million funding between 2007 and 2013.



RVC in Knowsley employ over 1400 local people. The largest shopping channel in the UK. RVC have been there 15 years and the site is now 4 times larger than when they opened. Pictured with James Keegan, Director of Customer Services and Kieran Murphy, Director of Distribution.



Sajjad met recently with Cllr Matt Colledge, leader of award winning Trafford Council at quay West



Saj, who is Chairman of European Parliament Friends of Pakistan Group, shares a pre speech cuppa with Imran Khan



WORKING FOR THE NORTH WEST IN EUROPE
Conservative MEPs for the North West are Sir Robert Atkins MEP, Jacqueline Foster MEP and Sajjad Karim MEP LLB (Hons)



SAJJ WELCOMES EUROPEAN INVESTMENT IN METROLINK

Sajjad has welcomed the announcement that the European Investment Bank (EIB) are to provide a £500m loan to fund the expansion of Manchester's Metrolink system. The investment will be the largest in public transport outside of London.

The EIB has agreed the 30 year funding, which will be used by Greater Manchester Combined Authority to construct phase three of the tram system, expanding the network to three times its current size, serving 99 stops using a fleet of 94 trams.



"Madness" of EU Budget Hike

In October, Sajjad condemned plans to increase the European Union budget by more than five per cent at a time of economic hardship across the continent.

Despite the on-going Eurozone crisis, the European Parliament has approved a 5.23% spending increase next year. That's another €133 billion, on top of the extra spending commitments set in 2011.

Sajjad and fellow Conservative MEPs have argued vehemently against the planned increase, as they did last year.

Sajjad said, "At a time when austerity measures are being implemented by Westminster and other domestic governments across Europe, we needed to freeze the budget. This is absolute madness and a wasted opportunity to reign in excessive EU spending."

EU CRIMINAL LAWS WOULD UNDERMINE NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS

Sajjad is warning European Commission plans to develop EU criminal law will undermine national parliaments.

The Lisbon Treaty, ratified by the old Labour Government, made it possible for the EU to set criminal law.

Sajjad, a lawyer himself, believes that criminal law and penalty-setting should be the preserve of national authorities and the only bodies that the commission should have powers to take to court should be the governments themselves.

"The EU does have a role to play in criminal law by improving cross border police co-operation. But, defining what constitutes a crime and what

penalties should apply is a fundamental issue of statehood," said Sajjad

"We have seen some criminal law already passed at EU level but this should not open the floodgates to a US style system of state and federal criminal law.

"This debate boils down to the fundamental question of whether we believe the EU should be a collection of co-operating states, or a state in itself which is not the kind of EU that the majority of British people want to see."



POSITIVE EU CHANGES TO PROCUREMENT

Sajjad is fully behind European Parliament recommendations for the simplification of EU procurement rules. This will mean less arduous compliance procedures for companies tendering for public contracts and easier access to the procurement market for small and medium-sized businesses.

These positive changes are a practical way the

EU is making progressive reforms to benefit all EU member states who can harness the enormous buying power of public authorities to help promote economic growth and jobs. Small and medium sized businesses, which until now have lost out to large corporations, will find a more level playing field when bidding for public contracts through greater access and smaller deals.

"16% of our GDP is based on a public body buying some service or item and in these tough economic times it is vital that we harness the huge potential offered by this for our businesses", said Sajjad.

"By modernising and simplifying public procurement rules we can stimulate growth. It should ultimately lead to savings for our taxpayers."

SAJJ OPENS NEW CUMBRIA GREEN ENERGY PLANT

Sajjad has just formally opened the plant at Dryholme Farm, Silloth, Cumbria, which will produce 1.2MW of electricity. Enough continuous power for more than 2,200 homes.

Speaking as he pressed the "button" to officially start electricity generation at the £4m anaerobic digestion (AD) plant, Sajjad said:

"A year ago to the day when I was last here construction hadn't even commenced and now this plant will supply local homes with electricity provided by local farmers from local produce. All due to the vision of Farmgen, the Nuclear Management Executive and Cumbria County Council, driving forward alternative energy production.

"The bio domes are manufactured by UK specialists Kirk Environmental in Burnley, and the diesel engine that generates the electricity is manufactured in Germany and supplied through



Saj pushes the button

the UK distributor, Powermech of Stockport. Two more great North West companies.

Simon Rigby, founder and Director of Green energy business Farmgen, commented "The most efficient wind farm only produces energy for about 30% of the time. This plant produces energy 24 hours a day, 365 days a year."

Sajjad visited Farmgen's first AD plant near Preston in May, which now generates 800kW of electricity on contract to Marks and Spencer. Farmgen will also build a third North West AD plant at Iveglil.

"Well done Salford on Euro Grant Aid!" Saj.

Salford City Council has successfully gained nearly £16m of funding for local projects from the European Regional Development Fund.

This will support economic regeneration to safeguard jobs, and been made available for 9 schemes across Salford including £6.7m towards the Media Enterprise Centre at MediaCityUK, which will provide unique facilities for smaller digital media companies.

Meeting with Council Redevelopment Officers and Conservative Group Leader, Cllr Karen Garrido, to discuss the projects. Sajjad said "I am delighted that Salford has been so successful in gaining funding for so many projects. The current programme follows schemes completed between 2000-06 which totaled nearly £12m in ERDF grants. So Salford has really benefitted from this EU support".

The Conservative led Coalition Government has also announced a £15m Regional Development Grant for the Port of Salford to help create 3,800 jobs. Councillor Garrido was delighted at the positive news saying:

"Together with the ERDF monies, this shows real commitment by Conservatives at both UK and European Government level. Areas of Salford still desperately need improvement and stimulating growth in these communities helps generate employment opportunities.

"I work closely with our MEP, Sajjad Karim, who is a real friend to Salford, acting as an advocate for our area in the European Parliament.

"This demonstrates how Central Government and European funding going hand in hand will develop top class businesses to make the most of the key strategic gateway that Salford sits on, running from the Docks to the Atlantic" said Sajjad.



Cllr Karen Garrido and Sajjad discuss ERDF grants available to Salford

Out and about with Sajjad



Sajjad was the main speaker at the Cheshire East Patrons' Club Dinner also attended by Edward Timpson MP and Fiona Bruce MP.



Southport Conservatives Sunday Lunch. Sajjad was guest speaker and is pictured with Councillors Barry Griffiths, Brenda Porter, Tony Crabtree, Terry Jones and Pat Ball



Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Blackburn invited Saj to their annual European Day. Continental breakfast followed by two rigorous Q&A sessions on European issues with pupils



Gosforth Show - it had rained all week but on the day it stayed dry. Sajjad supported North Cumbria Conservatives on their stand and enjoyed meeting so many of people attending the show and chatting to local businesses.



Chancellor George Osborne met with the Conservative Group of MEPs whilst he was in Brussels at the latest meeting of EU finance ministers. Mr Osborne is battling for Britain on the recent agreement to strengthen EU banks and increase the size of the eurozone rescue fund.



Sajjad and Graham Evans MP launched the campaign in support of the proposed HS2 High Speed Rail network, along with conservative colleagues

Keep up with Saj's news. Click on his new style web site www.sajjadkarim.eu