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Promoted by Mrs S Gillett on behalf of Sajjad Karim MEP. Both of 14b Wynford Square, West Ashton Street, Salford. M50 2SN. Printed by EWS Print of Penfold Lane, Buckley, Deeside.





PUTTING THE NORTH WEST FIRST

Winter 2013 / 2014 🛛 💐

'Our economy is improving, as a nation we have gone through so much pain. Now is not the time for complaceny and is certainly not the time to let UKIP take us backwards."

Sajjad Karim MEP LLB (Hons) Conservative Legal Affairs Spokesman

SKY NEWS PROFILE SAJ'S WORK AS AN MEP

This summer Sky News spent 2 days filming Sajjad's work as an MEP both in the UK and Brussels. The video was broadcast for 'Europe Day', an opportunity to discuss people's opinions on the EU that coincided with an opinion poll showing Britons divided about our future relationship with Europe.



Talking with presenter Joey Jones in the European Parliament Saj spoke about the lack of understanding about the role of an MEP as constituents often have little idea of what he does.

You can watch the full interview online here: http://youtu.be/MIU1ufflb1E

www.sajjadkarim.eu Putting the North West First Edition 3



With Edwina Currie and Andrew Stephenson MP at Pendle Conservatives dinner. Asked about Europe, Edwina said, "we are stronger together and weaker apart". Saj replied " that's scouse common sense for you!"

Saj played Master of Ceremonies for Chester & Weaver Vale Conservatives' Politicos Dinner with Home Secretary Rt Hon Theresa May MP.

Dear Friends

"I'd like to thank all those Party members and activists who have supported me in the past year and continue to do so. I am always humbled by the warm reception members



give me as I travel around the north west.

We have a great team to take us forward and are more than capable of taking on the unchecked threat of UKIP.

In 2014 I promise to keep pushing our 3Rs – our on-going review and reforms of our relationship with the EU as a whole, followed by the referendum that has been promised by the next Conservative government.

I want to ensure people are aware of the threat of UKIP, who make no positive contribution but think nothing of taking the floor and insulting people on a personal basis, or even worse, insulting whole nations simply in order to flag wave and grandstand back home. We face serious challenges at home and

Sajjad with the recently elected Leader of the Conservative Group in the European Parliament, Syed Kamall MEP

abroad and now is not the time for cheap nationalistic and damaging politics

I have also pledged to lead the charge and expose the truth about the BNP and their divisive policies.

North West folk are canny and I do not believe they will be taken in a second time by these political tricksters who are simply committing a fraud on the British people."



Sajjad H Karim MEP LLB (Hons)

LET'S NOT COWER IN FRONT OF THOSE

Our message is simple. The only way to get the much wanted referendum on Europe is to continue to support the Conservatives. parties or something of a more sinister lurch to the far right?

UKIP have been fortunate to be in the right place at the right time. Politician's expenses,

banker and euro crises have all

Labour and Lib Dems are scared of public opinion and UKIP, well where does one begin? UKIP voters are honest, decent citizens concerned with matters such as loss of national identity, EU

interference and immigration. But they are let down by their leadership that consists of bigoted Little Englanders hellbent on one policy and nothing to replace it.

So why are some people thinking about UKIP? Is it the on going and arguably increasing cynicism with the mainstream

By Sajjad Karim MEP (abridged from the article written for the House Magazine October 2013) contributed to the feeling that Britain deserves better. Similarly, the media has something of a love affair with UKIP and that leads to no scrutiny of its policy and the bar for

its representatives is so very low.

If any other elected colleague admitted going to a strip club with a French MEP he would have been hounded by the media. Yet when Farage announces this on the BBC the presenters just laugh it off as 'beer and fags' Nigel and he's off the hook.

UKIPers kipping: being paid but sleeping through a European debate. Imagine what the press would say if these were Conservatives.



WHO THREATEN BRITAIN'S PROSPERITY

There is an appeal to the buffoonery of Farage and he is very engaging company but ask yourself is he any more than a leader of a pressure group?

UKIP MEPs draw a public salary and yet hardly turn up to work. They are happy to take the "King's shilling," but contribute nothing positive to our country.

When they do they often vote against British interests and put

strain on delicate national alliances.

What does UKIP want to do about schools or the

environment? Will it keep the NHS or ditch HS2? Nobody knows because

every question asked is answered with an attack on Europe.

The Conservatives have to provide leadership to disaffected voters on immigration, evercreeping EU rules and regulations and loss of national identity. We need to demonstrate that we understand issues people care about and are taking action

We have to take our message that the work is well underway to the doorstep. We have launched a revolution in schools and we're bringing fairness to a benefit system that Labour left unfit for purpose.

The results are starting to show - the economy is growing and the deficit is down.

We are cutting red tape both

here and in Europe to help our businesses and stimulate growth. We have a great story to sell not least our pragmatic approach to European reform that will put the final decision in

With the PM in Stockport.

the hands of the British people.

Our economy is improving, exports are up, unemployment down and new business start ups are rocketing, but we have gone through so much pain we can't ever afford to be complacent with our economy and certainly can't afford to let UKIP take us back.

We have much work to do.



THE NORTH WEST LEADING THE WAY

When it comes to the landing technology on commercial and military jets Runcorn is at the centre of the wold.

APPH design, manufacture, repair and overhaul hydraulic systems for commercial and military aircraft, including landing gear. Its products are recognised as world class.

Sajjad joined local Member of Parliament, Graham Evans, on a visit to the Runcorn factory.

Graham and Saj were welcomed by Commercial Director George Land who briefed them on their work. They supply BAE, another great company based in the NW, and have had a 75 year working relationship with them. EH101 Merlin and US101 Helicopters.

Commenting on his visit Sajjad said "The North West economy needs high-quality manufacturing such as that at APPH, providing continuing employment and opportunities for graduates and apprenticeships each year."

Saj enjoys working closely with his fellow elected colleagues. "Since his election, Graham has built considerable reputation as a conscientious MP looking after his constituent's interest. It's a pleasure to work closely with him and my Conservative colleagues in Westminster across the North West" said Saj.

APPH's manufacturing capability provides complex, multi-axis and mill-turn machined components for landing gears, matchground hydraulic flight controls, aero-engine casings, and more,

At the Runcorn site the group currently employ around 150 and produce hydraulic equipment, landing gear components and complete systems for the Hawk Trainer, SAAB Gripen Fighter, the NH90,



Sajjad joined Graham Evans, MP for Weaver Vale, on a visit to APPH at Runcorn.

AN END TO GREYHOUND ABUSE

Saj was contacted by North West based charity Erin Hounds, who asked him to sign the Written Declaration in the European Parliament calling for an end to mistreatment and torture of greyhounds across Europe.

Erin Hounds bring dogs over from Ireland. Their volunteers spend much of their time raising awareness and desperately needed funds to try to help save these dogs' lives and find them loving homes. Find out more about the charity here: http://www.erinhounds.co.uk.

Despite various 'Welfare' Acts Greyhounds suffer terrible abuses across Europe. Bred, killed, tortured, dumped, abandoned – used to sustain the racing industries or as hunting dogs and for gambling. Saj and his colleagues believe that real change for these beautiful animals can be achieved through the Written Declaration 0006/2013.

"Legislation without enforcement is worse than useless. Thank you to Saj for acknowledging that action and implementation are vital, by signing this Written Declaration," said Victoria Lyon, Erin Hounds Chairman.

You can read the Written Declaration in full here: http://tinyurl.com/ne3y6g5



Photo: Gunner as he was when handed over to Erin Hounds, now happy in his new home.

OVER HERE TO OVER THERE - SAJJAD WELCOM

Small business leaders from across Lancashire recently visited the European Parliament in Brussels. Sajjad hosted the visit, led by Tony Raynor of Abbey Telecom, Blackburn, to enable SMEs to learn about the EU, the European Parliament's working practices and the work by the work done by our MEPs.

Members from the Lancashire and Cumbria Federation of Small Businesses were joined by colleagues from the North and West Lancashire Chamber and the East Lancashire Chamber's of Commerce.

Sajjad commented "Small businesses are the backbone of our economy and are the agents for economic growth. Collectively they are major employers who are affected on a day to day basis by EU legislation.

"My work as Legal Affairs spokesperson centres on cutting red tape to reduce the legislative burden for SMEs. I want to foster a better understanding of our relationship with Europe, enabling people to experience some of the mechanics of the EU and see for themselves the work I undertake representing the North West."

Commenting on the visit FSB Lancashire and Cumbria Chairman, Gary Lovatt, said "This was a real eye-opener for us. Many small businesses struggling with issues around red tape find it difficult to pinpoint exactly where the burdens come from."



MES LANCASHIRE BUSINESSES TO BRUSSELS

North and West Lancashire Chamber's International Trade Manager, Jeanette Carr said "Visiting the European Parliament has been a good insight into the everyday workings Sajjad and his team encounter. A lively question and answer session brought up Louise Gaskell, Head of Policy for East Lancashire Chamber said "The visit was a fantastic opportunity for business people to share views, air concerns and ask questions of our North West MEPs. Legislation from the EU affects businesses across a range of areas so it is important

some interesting and valid points of view and what the general perception of the workings of an MEP."

Abbey

Telecom's Tony Raynor added

"Supporters of each political party seemed to have consensus that the UK can influence change best if we appear cohesive to our European fellow members. It was interesting to note that some previously sceptical business people left Brussels keen to suppress the negative messages that some UK media give out."

Commenting on the trip



Sajjad with Jeanette Carr, Louise Gaskell and Gary Lovatt.

Parliament and were able to discuss with Sajjad some of the issues faced by the business community and the amount of red tape which often hinders small businesses. They also had briefings from the FSB's Policy Adviser on EU and International Affairs and representatives from the Belgian Embassy and UKDTI arranged by the North and West Lancashire Chamber

that we understand how and why legislation is passed and how our members can have their voices heard." The group

STOP THE STRASBOURG CIRCUS

Sajjad has welcomed the outcome of a key vote in the European Parliament as a major boost in the drive to end the notorious Strasbourg "travelling circus".

A plenary session of the parliament approved by 483 votes to 141 a report setting out a roadmap for reform, jointly authored by South West Conservative MEP Ashley Fox.

Focusing on the economic and environmental costs of the dual-seat system, and the weight of public opposition, it argues that MEPs should be allowed to decide for themselves where the Parliament sits.

Commenting on the debate Sajjad said "Currently only national governments can change the treaties which dictate that the European Parliament must meet in Strasbourg 12 times a year. Last year the European Parliament voted to cut this to 11 visits by running 2 sessions consecutively but this was overturned by the European Court of Justice on appeal by France and Luxembourg. Now the Parliament has formally set out its intention to pursue changing the treaty to end this ridiculous waste of taxpayers money."

Most of the European Parliament's work is done in Brussels, where Committee and Political Group meetings take place, where MEPs have their offices, and where most staff live. It is also where the other main EU Institutions are, namely the Commission and Council, therefore allowing for greater scrutiny and oversight of the

EU executive. But once a month 766 MEPs, 3,000 staff and 25 trucks carrying documents and equipment all decamp to



Yes- that is what the circus costs!

Strasbourg in France for three days.

The Parliament Secretary General puts the annual cost at €102 million, but Conservative MEPs say "invisible" costs brings the true cost to €156m.

From here the debate will move to the Presidents and Premiers in the European Council to help us win treaty change and the Conservative-led coalition government continues to lobby the EU to scrap the monthly trips to Strasbourg.

NEWS IN BRIEF

BUDGET FREEZE: CONSERVATIVES CONTINUE TO REDUCE EU COSTS

In addition to the historic 3.8% reduction in the European Union's long-term (7-year) budget secured by David Cameron in February, Conservatives in the European Parliament have also overseen a freeze in the EU's 2014 budget.

An agreement was reached in November that will see headline spending fall from €144.3 billion this year to €135.5 billion in 2014. However, with further additions made during negotiations and including inflation, this will mean a real-terms freeze.

Although he voted against the extra additions and would have preferred to see a reduction, Sajjad said the budget freeze was a step in the right direction and further evidence of discipline being brought into EU spending.

SAJ'S GUIDE TO FUNDING FROM THE EU UPDATED

Earlier this year Sajjad published a new guide for North West businesses, charities and community organisations, detailing how to source funding from the EU. This has been updated in line with changes to the funding streams and a revised pdf edition is now available.

Sajjad launched the guide in response to the many enquiries he gets from constituents, particularly SMEs, who struggle to find the information they require.

EU funding for 2014 to 2020 is currently being finalised. Saj's guide will be updated as new funding sources come online and a completely new edition will be printed early 2014 when all new sources are completed and contact information available. Please email sue.gillett@sajjadkarim.eu for a copy.





Keeping in touch with our Councils – with Leader of Trafford Council, Cllr Matthew Colledge and his colleague Cllr Jonathan Coupe.



OUR MAN IN EUROPE.

Our Man in Europe – Saj featured in the Ribble Valley Live magazine (where he lives). Read more at http://tinyurl.com/md5x2ce

Saj joined parliamentary colleagues on a visit to the new ITV Granada News studio at MediaCityUK, Salford. ITV are completing the construction of a new Coronation Street set at Salford Quays and have sold their old central Manchester site for redevelopment. Photographed with Tony Morris from Granada Reports.



Saj meets regularly with Manchester Airports Group to discuss how he can assist their expansion into China and support plans for an Airport City which is benefitting from £800m Chinese investment Saj and colleague Julie Girling MEP back the National Farmers Union 'British Farming Charter' which calls for the government to support British farmers to produce more food to feed our nation. Find out more here www.farmingdelivers.co.uk



Addressed roundtable discussion on a reform in New York. Pictured with ACCA' Almond and her New York team.



Saj is a regular contributor to the BBC's Sunday Politics Show with North West Chief Political Correspondent, Arif Ansari.



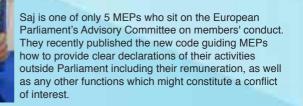


OUT &

ABOUT

Meeting members from Congleton's business community with Fiona Bruce MP.

Enjoying a reception with Salford Conservatives.





NEWS IN BRIEF

ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES NOW SAFE THANKS TO CONSERVATIVES

Electronic cigarettes no longer face being taken off the shelves after Conservative MEPs were successful in amending EU legislation on tobacco labeling.

Conservatives have continually stood up for the users of E-Cigs following plans announced earlier in the year by the European Commission that could have seen these products become unavailable or unviable by classing them as 'medicinal products'. Sajjad hailed the amendment as "A victory for common sense".

BUSINESSES BEWARE! DIRECTORY SCAMS!

Sajjad has warned businesses across the North West, particularly SMEs, to be on high alert following a recent spate of so-called 'directory scams'. These scams trick businesses into buying advertisements in European-based business directories, which are deliberately made to look official. They are not - they are expensive scams.

"These criminal scams are a serious concern for our small businesses and play on fear. My advice is not to sign anything if you have any suspicions about what it is you are being asked to sign-up to," warns Sajjad.

PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE FISHING

Following last year's 'Fish Fight' victory to end the wasteful practice of discarding healthy fish at sea, Conservatives have been at the forefront of campaigns to promote sustainable fishing, such as supporting more selective equipment to deal with discards and helping fishermen and coastal communities to innovate and become more competitive. In October Conservatives voted against plans for the subsidisation of new fishing fleets and called for more data collection, helping us understand exactly what is happening with our fish stocks.

DON'T FORGET YOUR EU HEALTH CARD!

Travelling or holidaying in Europe? Then don't forget your European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). Many ask about what benefits we get from being in the EU, well this is one! These cards give British visitors to EU countries free or significantly cheaper access to state-level healthcare should it be required. The card is valid in all EU countries as well as Iceland, Norway, Liechtenstein and Switzerland. It can be obtained from the Post Office or from ehic.org.uk.



NEWS IN BRIEF

CONFERENCE REPORT BACK

This Autumn, Manchester once again played host to our national annual Conservative Conference and Sajjad was delighted to be able to welcome friends and colleagues from across the UK and Europe back to the great North West.

Saj spoke at 7 fringe events including the Law Society Dinner, Counterpoint (debating the popularity of UKIP), Justice Across Borders, British Influence (discussing our future in Europe), and ENGAGE (Engaging Muslim voters in the European elections 2014 and general election 2015). Sajjad also welcomed Attorney General Rt Hon Dominic Grieve QC MP to a dinner hosted by Manchester Conservative Federation.



(Photo: Saj's interviewed by Sam Turner and Euan Doak for BBC Radio Manchester during Conference.)



QUEEN ELIZABETH GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Saj joined students at Queen Elizabeth Grammar School in Blackburn for Europe Day. After enjoying a typical continental breakfast, Saj really enjoyed talking with Year 8 and 6th form students about his work as their North West MEP and the importance of Britain being a strong member of the EU. All were keen to learn more about Europe. Refreshing to engage with those bright young minds!



(Photos: Breakfast with Deputy Head.)

CAMPAI

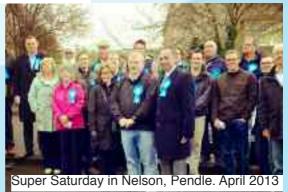




Carlisle - Cllrs John and Liz Mallinson successfully defended their County Council seats in May.

Cheadle's Mary Robinson, with husband Stephen and Chairman Sue Carroll.







Berry MP and his team.

GN 2013

Sunny Days in Cleveleys with County Cllr Andrea Kay and our team.

South Ribble's Clirs Malcolm Barron and Michael Green.

> Fleetwood – Eric Ollerenshaw MP, Iain Stewart MP and our local campaigners. May 2013

Ormskirk with North West Regional Chairman Cllr Rob Bailey.

The Three Rs

The 3Rs - Update: Review, Reform, Referendum.

Since David Cameron pledged a referendum on our membership of the EU after the next election, Saj has been taking the debate out and about across the North West as well as in the European Parliament. Here's an update of some of his activities:

TAKING THE EU DEBATE TO THE NORTH WEST CBI 255,000 businesses make the North West their home and as a local MEP Sajjad spends much time visiting and keeping in touch with those companies who make the region such a great place to live and work.

Saj was therefore delighted to be invited to meet with key

regional Confederation of Business Industry members to encourage private sector growth.

Discussions centred on the UK's role in the EU and what can be done to promote this interaction to achieve strong economic growth across the UK, but specifically in the North West.

There was agreement that we need an informed debate on the future with Saj explaining his 3Rs agenda.

"David Cameron's initiative on reform is increasingly attracting support from national leaders of our EU partners" said Sajjad. "Not having a seat at the table has real consequences and having to live by decisions that are made by others without your interests represented is a very

Photo: "We have put in place a review in the UK that is already underway, we are leading on a reform programme within the EU and ultimately we will have a referendum in the UK." -Sajjad Karim MEP debates EU issues and the proposed referendum with on the BBC Daily Politics Show.



Review, Reform, Referendum

difficult thing and I think that would dawn on people very soon afterwards."

All present were in agreement that leaving the EU would be detrimental to UK business.

The CBI wants to see a clear way forward in the UK's relationship with the EU and wants to retain access to the single market in a reformed EU. £3000 per household in Britain - CBI research concludes each household in Britain benefits from EU membership to the tune of £3,000 a year.

8 out of 10 CBI members, including 77% of SMEs said they would vote for Britain to remain in the EU if the referendum was held tomorrow but that reform is vital.

Recommended Reading - If you are interested in finding out more about Britain and the EU, have a look at the web sites below:

LET BRITAIN DECIDE - 62% of people believe we need a referendum on Europe, but some people and some parties don't believe we should have a say http://www.letbritaindecide.com/



BRITISH INFLUENCE – Better off in a better Europe http://britishinfluence.org/

OUR BIGGEST MARKET 500 million customers in Europe – handle with care! http://ourbiggestmarket.org/





www.whathaseuropedone.eu - a look at what the EU has and has not done.

or www.sajjadkarim.eu

The First IN/OUT Hustings

DOWNTOWN MANCHESTER IN BUSINESS – EU: IN OR OUT DEBATE

Sajjad joined a panel of entrepreneurs, business leaders and political commentators to discuss and debate the issues surrounding what could well be the most important question the British electorate will be asked in the twenty-first century.

Arranged by the new business group, Downtown Manchester, the event was well attended by members of the Manchester business community.

Panel members in addition to Saj were well respected broadcaster Jim Hancock, who also spoke up for continued membership of a reformed EU. On the No side Dougal Paver of public relations company Paver Smith and local businessman Scott Fletcher.

Whilst Dougal and Scott put up a persuasive argument, the resultant ballot of the audience: In 55%, Out 27%, Undecided 18%.

Commenting after the debate Saj said, "We must make an informed decision following a thorough review and reform of the EU before a referendum in 2017. It's clear the agenda now is not just about our relationship with the EU but there is increasing momentum from other countries to



look at a much broader agenda of who is responsible for what.

EUROPE DIRECT

Saj has continued to roll out his programme of Europe Direct meetings for members and supporters in the North West. Recent meetings have been held in Tameside, West Lancashire, Bolton and Oldham (pictured). If you would like to join the debate and hold a Europe Direct meeting in your constituency please contact sue.gillett@sajjadkarim.eu



EU DEAL WITH PAKISTAN

Pakistan is likely to receive GSP+ trade status by January 1st

In November the European Parliament's International Trade

Committee voted to allow plans for Pakistan to start receiving beneficial trade tariffs for its exports to the FU from 2014. This means that it is highly

likely that from the 1st January 2014 Pakistan will

Photo: Britain and Sweden delivering on the British agenda! Saj and Swedish MEP Christofer Fjellner working together on the GSP+ trade scheme

benefit from the 'Generalised Scheme of Preferences +' trade scheme which offers trade preferences to countries that commit to respecting international convention on good governance and sustainable development.

As Chairman of the influential Friends of Pakistan group in the European Parliament, Sajjad has been at the forefront of

promoting EU-Pakistan relations and putting Pakistan on the trade scheme The FU is Pakistan's largest trading partner with textile and clothing products making more

> than 60% of Pakistan's exports. Speaking after the vote Sajjad commented "Today's vote is a defining step in the relationship

between the FU and Pakistan, The GSP+ trade

scheme will allow Pakistan to import more goods into the EU without having to pay high tariff prices."

This will also benefit a number of North West companies, including textile companies in Lancashire who have contacted Saj to thank him for pushing for the adoption of the scheme

SLASHING RED TAPE

"Let's cut burdensome red tape and free the entrepreneurial spirit."

Following the success of Sajjad's 'Better Legislation' report last year, he has been reappointed as the European Parliament Rapporteur for better law-making and smart regulation and is already working on a new wing MEPs who are refusing to support his latest reforms, saying: "The EU is by its nature always looking to introduce rules. But we need to change that culture and free our wealth creators to build the sustained growth we all desire."

At a 2 day Summit of European Leaders held in October.

report which will go even further in the drive to reduce unnecessary and costly EU legislation and bureaucracy.

The new draft legislation aims to make it

much harder for the EU to place burdensome rules on our SMEs. This will include a 'red card' system allowing Member States, such as the UK, to block unacceptable EU legislation, as well as the production of an annual report showing the net costs of EU regulations.

It will also hold the Commission to account on its commitment to simplify regulations where possible and repeal legislation when justified.

In October, Sajjad spoke out in the Parliament criticising leftCameron put forward a robust call to reduce red tape to boost growth and jobs. Commenting after the summit Saijad

said: "I stand united behind the Prime Minister in his call for cutting EU red tape. We must gather the political will to do what is long overdue. Let's tear down trade barriers, cut burdensome red tape and free the entrepreneurial spirit."

The UK Government's Business Taskforce has proposed 30 reforms to slash EU red tape and save British companies tens of billions of pounds.



CHESHIRE & WIRRAL AREA CONFERENCE '14

with Education Secretary Michael Gove

#CW14 CONFERENCE DINNER with Rt Hon Michael Gove MP Friday 31st January 2014 from 7.00pm

#CW14 CONFERENCE

with Rt Michael Gove MP, Rt Hon David Jones MP & others Saturday 1st February 2014 from 10pm - 5.00pm

#CW14 AFTER PARTY

Saturday 1st February 2014 from 7pm

VENUE - HOLIDAY INN ELLESMERE PORT

Great deals on rooms for delegates, ring hotel on 0151 356 8111

WWW.CW14.CO.UK