



Marina Yannakoudakis

Conservative MEP for London

LATEST NEWS

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GO EASY ON THOSE WINTER ANTIBIOTICS

WHEN a sniffle becomes a fever many of us are tempted to ask our doctor for antibiotics.

But imagine a world where antibiotics are no longer effective - where treatments such as hip replacements and chemotherapy are no longer possible because of superbugs such as MRSA.

The problem of diseases that are increasingly resistant to antibiotics was addressed at a discussion co-hosted by Marina Yannakoudakis at the European Parliament on Antibiotics Awareness Day.

Each year there are 25,000 deaths in the EU due to antibiotic resistant diseases.

British law means antibiotics are only available on prescription, but in some European countries they are readily available over the counter.

And when people take them for colds instead of bacterial infections or fail to finish the course they increase the risk of diseases becoming resistant.

Experts agree that one important factor in tackling the spread of antibiotic resistant diseases is through good hygiene.

Another area for discussion was the use of antibiotics in farming where animals are systemically given them to keep healthy. These are banned in the EU but allowed in other parts of the world including the USA. The antibiotics then enter the food chain – which means humans are take more of them without knowing it.

Speakers included Laurette Onkelinx, Belgian Secretary for Social Affairs, and Marc Springer, director of the European Centre for Disease Control.

Marina said: "We need to spread the word on prudent use of antibiotics. Keep it clean, keep it sensible and don't over react."

Since the advent of antibiotics, life expectancy has increased from 47 years in 1901 to 83 years in 2010.



WARNING ON ANTIBIOTICS: Marina Yannakoudakis hosting the discussion by experts at the European Parliament on Antibiotics Awareness Day

Battling to protect British sovereignty

MARINA has joined MPs, Lords and fellow MEPs on a 'tripartite' parliamentary committee set up in Westminster to discuss the effects of EU measures on British sovereignty.

The Coalition's new European Union Bill will ensure any changes from Brussels which undermine British sovereignty are put to a referendum.

At her first committee meeting Marina supported moves to avoid another surrender of powers like the Lisbon treaty.

The committee, chaired by William Cash MP, is investigating the impact of the European Arrest Warrant. Marina raised the case of London resident Andrew Symeou, who was extradited to Greece on a warrant in 2009 and is still awaiting trial. Marina said: "This does not seem like justice. If a warrant is used the accused should have a trial as soon as possible. The arrest warrant can protect us against terrorism, but sometimes there is a fine line in its usage, as Andrew's case shows."

Speaking up for the Jewish community over food labels

THE labelling of meat slaughtered by the Jewish shechita method was a major topic for discussion when Marina and fellow Conservative MEPs met the Board of Deputies of British Jews.

The European Parliament's Environment, Public health and Food Standards committee is seeking to have all meat labelled according to the method of slaughter.

But the Board of Deputies claims this labelling is discriminatory.

Marina, who sits on the committee, said: "I will question the value to the consumer of such information. I will be against this particular amendment. I am concerned it might have a



BATTLING FOR BRITAIN: Marina with Jamie Slavin, Public Affairs Officer for the Jewish Board of Deputies and Jonathan Arkush, Senior Vice President

negative effect on some groups of our society. However, I recognise the arguments put forward by the animal welfare lobby and would look towards a compromise which would cover both concerns."

The elected Board of

Deputies represents the 400,000 strong Jewish community in the United Kingdom. Its International Division liaises particularly closely with European Jewish communities on issues that arise within the European Union.

Marina out and about in the capital

MARINA joined London council mayors, the Mayor of London Boris Johnson, MPs and MEPs at the Greater London Assembly's Remembrance Service at City Hall.

She said: "It was particularly moving as we were joined by troops who have been on active service in Iraq and Afghanistan."

Meanwhile on a visit with Charles Tannock MEP to the RAF Museum in Hendon she learned about plans to develop the museum and for a new Battle of Britain Beacon to honour both the brave pilots and the ordinary men and women who lived through the blitz.

Marina has also been busy keeping in touch with London supporters. She spoke to Hampstead & Kilburn Conservatives about the impact of MEPs joining the European Conservatives and Reformists group and hosted a visit to Brussels of City of London Conservatives. In addition, Marina had a meeting in London with the Egyptian Ambassador Hatem Seif El Nasr.



HENDON VISIT: Marina with Charles Tannock MEP, Air Vice-Marshal Peter Dye OBE and Mr David Keen, the museum's Access Development Manager

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