



Marina Yannakoudakis

Conservative MEP for London

LATEST NEWS

www.marinayannakoudakis.com

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Showing Londoners around the European Parliament

MARINA is always keen to show Londoners the workings of the European Parliament and in April two groups from the capital crossed the Channel to find out more.

A party from St Paul's Church in Finchley went to Brussels to see the Parliament and enjoyed a lively debate with Marina. Meanwhile Lancaster Gate Ward Conservatives visited the Strasbourg Parliament building. They saw the Chamber in action and had a question and answer session with London MEPs.



VISIT: Marina and the group from St Paul's, Finchley

LEADING THE DEBATE ON NUCLEAR SAFETY

MARINA Yannakoudakis will be at the forefront in considering the best ways of dealing with spent nuclear fuel and radioactive waste as the EU considers how to revise and update the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) Directive.

She will act as Shadow Rapporteur for the European Conservatives and Reformists group as the European Parliament debates this sensitive subject.

The nuclear crisis at the Fukushima power plant in Japan following the devastating tsunami and earthquake has raised serious questions and doubts about harnessing nuclear energy across the world for the first time since Chernobyl.

Marina is in favour of clearer safety recommendations in the revised Euratom directive.

She said: "It is vital to have the necessary protective measures in place when dealing with nuclear power. The safety practices followed by one country can have a profound effect on another.

"Euratom must put forward new and clearer safety recommendations. However this is also an important issue for EU countries to legislate for individually. Too much European interference along with over-reaction to the events at Fukushima could be detrimental to the future of nuclear energy in Europe."

Strasbourg jaunt must end

THE Conservatives are fighting to cut down on the number of European Parliament meetings in Strasbourg, saving £13.5million of public money.

At present full Parliament meetings are held in Strasbourg 12 times a year, while committee meetings take place in Brussels.

The dual location means that once a month MEPs and their staff pack up their entire Brussels office, including all their documents and travel 271 miles to France.

There are normally two Strasbourg meetings in October because the full Parliament does not meet in August due to the summer break.

Conservative MEP Ashley Fox has tabled an amendment to the calendars for 2012 and 2013 proposing a merger of the two October sessions into one week.

Marina said: "The whole concept of having a European Parliament in Strasbourg is ludicrous and ill thought-out. The monthly relocation to Strasbourg is synonymous with waste."

Marina out and about in London

In her role as a member of the European Parliament's Women's Rights (Femm) committee, Marina hosted a meeting for Conservative Women (CWCC) at Europe House in Smith Square, Westminster.

It was an opportunity to talk about policies related to women in Europe. Jo Laben, secretary of the London CWCC, said: "It was a chance to integrate women's objectives and needs and expand their knowledge on the EU."

Marina also joined in celebrating the Royal Wedding at her local street party on the appropriately-named Middleton Road in Barnet. There were 825 formal road closures in London so residents could hold proper traffic-free events. There was a real buzz across the city throughout the day and London's community spirit came alive.

Marina said: "Street parties are a great British tradition and a fun way to meet all your neighbours."



ON THE AGENDA: Marina with Pauline Lucas, Valerie Whittaker and other CWCC women



CELEBRATION STREET: Marina at the Middleton Road Party

We say No to AV!



WINNERS: Marina with Theresa Villiers MP, Cllr Brian Coleman, and among others Jason Theo-George and Nicolas Clark of London Conservative Future

THANK you to all those who joined the successful NO to AV campaign - the hard work has paid off.

Marina campaigned across London, the final push taking place in Barnet and Hammersmith.

She said: "What could be fairer than the person with the most votes winning? I'm glad we've kept the First Past the Post system."

Save the date

May 25: Marina to host London Climate Change public hearing attended by Boris Johnson's chief adviser (Brussels)

June 14: Marina hosts Healthy Ageing - a lifelong endeavour annual reception (Brussels, 6pm)

June 17: Counterfeit Medicines and Information to Patients meeting (London)

September 30: Book launch by Marina on Health issues (London)

October 21: Dementia and Alzheimer's meeting (London)

November 18: European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control and World Health Organisation (London)

If you would like to attend please email poppy@marinayannakoudakis.com. There will be plenty of opportunity to participate and ask questions, so please sign up!

EU debate gets fruity

THE correct labelling of fruit juices has been a hot topic for debate in the European Parliament.

More than ever people want to know exactly what is in their food. It has led to a heated debate about how the industry defines and labels fruit juice as 'made from concentrate' or 'fresh' fruit juice and which juices can boast that there is 'no added sugar'.

Marina will be supporting tighter regulations on the labelling of juices because people want to know exactly what they are buying.

At the same time she is seeking to ensure that British and European manufacturers of fruit juices are not unnecessarily burdened by EU legislation.

She said: "It's a question of balance. We all want to know exactly what we are buying. But it is vital that there is not too much red tape. We do not want to bog down suppliers with regulations or put up costs."

If you know anyone who would like this newsletter email marinayannakoudakis@europarl.europa.eu