



Marina Yannakoudakis Conservative MEP for London



LATEST NEWS

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LONG TO REIGN OVER US!



Proud to be British - what a month! Even the most die-hard republicans could not fail to see the grace, dignity and strength of the Queen during the jubilee celebration. Marina was in Brussels celebrating at a reception organised by the British Ambassador, but was thoroughly impressed by the show put on by the capital to thank the Queen for her six decades of service. London is now ready for its next challenge: the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Just days after the jubilee, David Cameron was in Berlin to meet with Chancellor Angela Merkel. There, the Prime Minister dismissed as "nonsense" Merkel's suggestion that the European Union should eventually have a single national identity with loyalty to a common European flag. Marina also thinks the German Chancellor's suggestion is nonsense and surely those who were waving Union Flags on the Mall or the banks of the Thames earlier this month would agree.



DIAMOND: The jubilee in Brussels

61 MEPS JOIN MARINA'S SUGAR CAMPAIGN



LETTER: Marina with Bulgarian Liberal MEP Antonia Parvanova and letter to Cioloş

EU rules on sugar are making the cane refineries unviable with 4,500 highly-skilled jobs at risk. One of the threatened plants is the Tate & Lyle refinery in Silvertown. Marina has led the charge against the European Commission's competition-distorting rules. She wrote to EU Agriculture Commissioner Dacian Cioloş calling for a level playing field for both cane and beet refiners and got 61 MEPs from 11 countries to co-sign it.

Marina said: "The EU spends a lot of time talking about growth and jobs. But when it comes to protecting existing jobs or promoting growth in the EU sugar sector the Commission is sticking to its rigid import regulations and economically threatening Europe's cane refiners. Jobs are at stake in some of the most economically deprived areas of the EU. The rules are not only hurting the industry in Europe, but if cane refiners go bust, sugar cane producers in the developing world will be squeezed out. Why spend so much EU money on structural funds and development assistance when we can promote jobs at home and abroad by increasing opportunities to import cane sugar?" The letter was signed by the chairman and vice-chairman of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development. All London MEPs signed the letter except the Green Party's Jean Lambert, who claimed it would not be in line with the Green group's policy, and UKIP's Gerard Batten who said that he had "advised Tate & Lyle that the only permanent solution to the problem is British withdrawal from the EU."



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<http://www.youtube.com/user/MarinaMEP>

Visits to Brussels: Associations wishing to organise a visit to Brussels should contact Marina.

Published monthly by email. Sign up at: marina.yannakoudakis@europarl.europa.eu or online.

MARINA VOTES AGAINST EU FTT

Marina has long opposed an EU Financial Transaction Tax or Tobin Tax which she believes would harm competitiveness and drive business out of the EU, especially from London. She voted against the tax in a recent ballot in the European Parliament.

In a recent speech to parliament she condemned the tax proposals saying: "An EU FTT will damage growth and cost jobs and let's face facts: it is Britain which will lose most of these jobs. An EU Financial Transaction Tax is a tax on the City of London. France and Germany may be willing to see jobs and businesses driven out of my constituency, but I will not stand by and let London become the EU's whipping boy."

The vote was passed with the help of Socialist and Green MEPs with London Labour Members refusing to cast a vote even though they were in the chamber: <http://bit.ly/JmZJkv>. The European Commission proposal for an FTT would introduce a levy 0.1% on stocks and bonds, and 0.01% on derivatives transactions.



OECD CONFERENCE BOOSTS WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS



Marina was invited to speak about her work on championing women in business at this year's OECD Forum in Paris at a special session on Promoting Women Champions. Other speakers included former Chilean President Michelle Bachelet, now Director of UN Women, former Belgian Prime Minister Yves Leterme and Cherie Blair who now heads a charitable foundation to support women entrepreneurs in Africa, South Asia and the Middle East.

Marina spoke about the proposals she drafted in the European Parliament which call for seminars and training to help women use the European Progress Microfinance Facility. As a former businesswoman, she knows how daunting setting up a small business can be and believes that giving women fair access to start-up and expansion grants and the right information can produce a new generation of women entrepreneurs.

SPEECH: Women and SMEs

AROUND LONDON

Boris' re-election may be over, but London still has by-elections to win and your London MEP is always there supporting. This month Marina was canvassing with Barnet councillors as well as supporting a by-election candidate in Chingford. While by-elections need to be fought it's equally important to visit associations. Marina addressed the Croydon federation's Policy Forum on "London and the EU" and spoke about the threat of EU regulations to the City.



Cllr Lurline Champagnie OBE also invited Marina to speak at the re-launch of the

Harrow West Conservative Women's Organisation. CWO National Deputy Chairman Margaret Bird and London CWO Chairman Sally Roberts were also present at the re-launch.



CROYDON: With Federation Chairman Robert Askey and Cllr Richard Chatterjee

GIRL POWER: With the Conservative women of Harrow West

CONSERVATIVES SAVE BUY-TO-LET

Conservatives have blocked EU plans which could have put an end to buy-to-let mortgages and bridging loans. The EU proposals would have made it harder for investors to put money into property which would have had a detrimental effect on the availability of private-rental properties, thus pushing up rents. Conservatives still need to fight to save savings-linked loans in the next round of talks.



SAVE THE DATE: PARALYMPIC EVENT

As your London MEP, Marina will holding an event in the European Parliament to mark the London Paralympics and to celebrate disabled sport. The event will be attended by three-time Paralympic gold medallist Simon Jackson OBE as well as other Paralympic athletes from around the EU. The event will be held in the European Parliament in Brussels on **26 September** from 12:00 CEST. Contact Marina for more information.



If you would like Marina to speak at a London event email: marina.yannakoudakis@europarl.europa.eu