



# Marina Yannakoudakis Conservative MEP for London



LATEST NEWS

[www.marinayannakoudakis.com](http://www.marinayannakoudakis.com)

September 2012

## LONDON'S GOLDEN SUMMER

What a summer it's been! The Olympic and Paralympic Games were a resounding success for London and for the entire country. London delivered thanks to support from Conservatives such as Lord Coe and London Mayor Boris Johnson. Sir John



**TORCH: At Torch Relay Party with Finchley Tories**

Major's decision to establish the National Lottery's investment in British sport contributed to Team GB's medal rush, including 29 Olympic and 34 Paralympic gold medals. But these games were not about politicians. They were about the people who made them: the volunteers, the spectators and of course the athletes. All across the capital, Londoners have got in the Olympic and Paralympic spirit, be it cheering on the torches as they passed through the city or watching the games on big screens set up across London. When the Olympic Torch passed Marina's office in Finchley there was an overwhelming feeling of being proud to be British. I think we all agree with Boris that this was "the most extraordinary event we can remember in our lifetimes and which we will remember for the rest of our lives."



**MASCOTS: Marina with Wenlock and Mandeville**

## PARALYMPICS EVENT IN BRUSSELS



**GOLD: Richard Barnes & Simon Jackson**

Following the success of the Paralympics, Marina organised an event in the European Parliament to showcase the achievements of the London games and to have a wider discussion about disability sport, disabled rights and changing perceptions of disability. The 2012 Paralympics were the biggest and best Paralympics ever, with nearly two and a half million tickets already sold – more than any previous Paralympics – and more athletes from more countries than ever before, including a record number of female athletes.

Co-organised with Czech ECR MEP Milan Cabrnoch, the event brought together gold medal-winning Paralympians Simon Jackson MBE from the UK and Martin Kovář from the Czech Republic. The event was an opportunity not only to promote the good work the UK has done in this field but also to debate what lessons can be learnt: how the legacy of the Paralympics can be used to open both sport and opportunities to all people, especially the disabled. The debate centred round the success of the London games and how to build on this success. Richard Barnes talked about how he oversaw improvements to accessibility in London in the run-up to the games and the legacy of the Paralympics and Simon and Martin discussed the future of disabled sport. The UK has always been a trailblazer for promoting disabled rights. In 1948 we pioneered disability sport at the Stoke Mandeville Games, the forerunner of the first Paralympics in 1960; in 1970 we introduced the first legislation for disabled rights anywhere in the world.

### JOIN MARINA AT CONSERVATIVE PARTY CONFERENCE FRINGE EVENTS

8 October, 10:00: How to Gain Selection (Conservative Home Marquee 2)

8 October, 12:30: The Evolving Workplace (Scherzo Room, Hyatt Regency)

8 October, 17:30: Global Body Shopping (Jubilee Room, Copthorne Hotel)

9 October, 12:30: Women in the Boardroom (Burne-Jones Suite, Novotel Birmingham Centre)

9 October, 19:30: Is Europe damaging the future for Britain's science industries (Drawing Room, Hyatt Regency)



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# EU QUANGOCRACY IS OUT OF CONTROL

On a recent visit to the European Chemicals Agency in Helsinki, Marina was outraged to discover that an agency set up to manage the administration of the EU chemicals directive will not be wound down at the end of the directive's registration period. Shockingly the EU Commission has given the agency new competences in the field of biocides. In May, Marina made a speech calling for a bonfire of the EU quangos, but EU politicians are starving this bonfire of oxygen. In the women's rights committee, Marina tabled an amendment calling for the abolition of the European Institute for Gender Equality which she believes could easily be merged with the EU Fundamental Rights Agency. The amendment was voted down, but worse still, the committee approved a 7.1% budget increase for the agency, as called for by London Labour MEP Mary Honeyball. Many EU agencies are inefficient and unnecessary and



**BAD CHEMISTRY: EU Chemicals Agency should be wound down** and deserve to go up in smoke.

## MARINA'S LIFE-SAVING PROPOSALS ADOPTED



**BARNET GENERAL: Watching umbilical cord blood collection**

Marina's proposals to find matches for tissue donations across Europe were adopted by the European Parliament this month. It is hoped that Marina's report on tissue donations, which includes bone marrow and corneas, will help improve patients' health and save lives. Bone marrow and stem cell transplants are often the only hope for people with leukaemia or other blood diseases. In multi-ethnic areas, such as London, patients often need to look for donors abroad. Here is where we can tap into the value-added of the European Union, by sharing donor registries across the EU. Marina's report also looks at ways of raising awareness of donating umbilical cord blood after the birth of a child. Stem cells extracted from cord blood can be used to treat cancer and other life-threatening diseases. Too few mothers are donating umbilical cord blood which leads to needless deaths. Marina is holding events on her report in both London and Brussels. The Brussels events will bring together representatives of the Commission and Council and will look at concrete ways for countries to co-operate.

## AROUND LONDON CAMDEN COUNCIL BY-ELECTION

A vacancy in Hampstead Town saw Marina taking to the streets to help campaign for Conservative candidate Simon Marcus. Simon grew up in Hampstead and his family has long been at the heart of the community.

### ASSOCIATION EVENTS



**EALING: President's Luncheon**

In the run-up to party conference, Marina visited a number of associations attending social events, speeches and discussions. She took part in an event with Mark Field MP in Lewisham West where threats to the City from EU legislation were discussed. She also joined the Ealing Central and Acton Conservative Association's President's lunch and garden parties in Bromley & Chislehurst and Croydon Central. She joined Knightsbridge ward Conservatives for a presentation by the editor of the Spectator. If you would like Marina to speak at a local ward or association event or to attend a social function please call her London office on: **020-8445-8055**.



**CANVASSING: With Simon Marcus**

## MARINA RAISES MONEY FOR BREAST CANCER CHARITY

Marina took part in this year's fourteenth annual "Generations Walk". The walk took place on 9 September around Hampstead Heath and raised money for Breast Cancer Campaign. Marina got the walkers under starter's orders alongside Generations Walk founder Cheryl Stakol, who created the walk after being diagnosed with breast cancer. Marina's walk raised over £1,000. Founder Cheryl Stakol describes herself as a "cancer survivor". Marina hopes that one day all women who suffer from this condition will be able to say the same.



**HAMPSTEAD: Cancer Walk**

## BOARDROOM QUOTAS

A document leaked to the Financial Times shows that the EU is planning to introduce legislation on quotas for women in the boardroom. The proposals are bad for business and bad for women. There is a danger that multinational companies will leave the EU if they are faced with additional onerous EU employment legislation. Marina is leading a cross-party campaign of like-minded MEPs to block quotas which are both patronising and destructive.

*"I know of very few women who want to be elevated to boards because of their gender. Fewer still who want their seat on the board to be mandated by EU diktat."* **Marina's letter to The Financial Times, 5 September**