



# Marina Yannakoudakis Conservative MEP for London



LATEST NEWS

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

October 2012

## EU QUOTAS VICTORY

EU Justice Commissioner Viviane Reding has been forced to postpone controversial plans to introduce an EU-mandated compulsory 40% quota for women in boardrooms following opposition from her fellow Commissioners.

Marina and the UK government have been fighting the Brussels quota plan which would have been bad for business and bad for women. The UK has had enough of the EU meddling in its employment law and there was a danger that a compulsory boardroom quota for women would have made the EU a less attractive place for investment, a risk which we can ill-afford at a time of economic crisis.

According to a report in the Financial Times, the majority of Mrs. Reding's fellow female Commissioners were opposed to quotas. This is because, like Marina, most women know that a boardroom quotas would fail to tackle the root causes of the under-representation of women in top jobs.

Marina wants to see more women on company boards, but fears that a compulsory quota would lead to women becoming little more than window dressing in the boardroom. When a 40% quota was introduced in Norway it led to women being put on the boards just to make up the numbers. A group of about 70 women nicknamed the "golden skirts" or the "trophy directors" were given non-exec posts on multiple company boards. The director of a Norwegian football club Mimi Berdal was even on the board of 90 different companies.

Marina said "Quotas imposed by the EU are unwanted and unworkable. I hope Mrs. Reding will take the hint: member states don't want quotas, the commission doesn't want quotas and I know many members of the European Parliament don't want quotas. Let's put a stop to this quota nonsense once and for all and talk about the real issue of supporting diversity in business. In the UK the voluntary system is working, and it should be down to individual organisations and individual countries to make their own arrangements. Nobody should have a set of rigid rules enforced from outside."



**QUOTAS: Debating with Labour MEP Mary Honeyball**

## EU PRESIDENCY AND LONDON MP BACK MARINA



**TISSUES & CELLS: With David Burrowes and Carolina Stylianou**

Marina's life-saving proposals for an EU-wide network of tissue and cell donors were discussed at a public hearing in Brussels. Marina was joined by representatives of the European Commission and the Cypriot Presidency of the EU to discuss how to help desperately-ill patients across the continent. The hearing was also attended by Enfield MP David Burrowes who is Vice-Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Stem Cell Transplantation and Alex Hilton of the London-based charity the Anthony Nolan Trust. The purpose of the event was to look at ways in which the European Commission and the Cypriot Presidency could take up the recommendations included in Marina's report on the voluntary donation of tissues and cells. Marina's report was overwhelmingly approved by the European Parliament last month.

Marina said: "I am pleased that my proposals have been so warmly received by the European Commission and the Cypriot Presidency. Now it is time to turn these plans into a reality, ensuring that those in dire need of tissues and cells can be matched more easily to donors across Europe." David Burrowes MP added: "It's excellent that Marina's leadership of promoting cord blood is on the European agenda. We need to work harder in both the UK and across Europe to save more lives."



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# MARINA AT CONFERENCE

It was a busy week in Birmingham for Marina catching up with many of her London constituents and speaking at a series of fringe events on her recent work in the European Parliament.

Marina addressed a packed Conservative Home and Women2Win event on how to gain selection with MPs Guy Opperman, Andrew Griffiths, Sarah Newton and Christine Emmett, the candidate in the Corby by-election. The event was chaired by Women2Win founder Baroness Jenkin.

Marina also spoke to a Conservative Women's Organisation Event on how to encourage more women in business. Marina was joined on the panel by Helen Grant MP, Minister for equalities and Richmond councillor Katharine Harborne.

Marina has worked on the issue of promoting women entrepreneurs in the European Parliament and she has drafted



**WOMEN2WIN: Marina speaks to packed event**



**HEALTH: Debating organ donation with Guido Fawkes**

a set of proposals which will make it easier for women to access EU start-up grants. Marina talked about health at a fringe event organised by the 2020Health think tank. She also spoke about environment issues at a debate on EU regulations organised by the Chemical Industries Association. In her speech, Marina said: "We must ensure that tough EU rules do not lead to capital flight. In a globalised world it is easy to shift the basis of operations to a third country depriving EU citizens of much needed jobs". Marina also spoke out against EU-mandated quotas for women on boards at a debate with Evening Standard

editor Sarah Sands and MP Harriett Baldwin. As well as meeting with London associations, Marina was also able to get together with representatives of organisations affiliated with the party such as Conservative Friends of Israel, Conservative Friends of Cyprus and LGBTory.



**FULHAM: With Greg Hands**

## AROUND LONDON

Your London MEP has been visiting associations across London to help with canvassing both for council by-elections and to prepare for crucial borough council elections in 2014. Marina joined a large group of activists in Lewisham to support



**HARROW WEALD: Canvassing with Bob Blackman MP & activists**

candidate Simon Nundy in the Whitefoot by-election in Lewisham. The Liberal Democrats failed to hold the seat, but Conservatives need to prevent all Lib Dem votes going to Labour. Marina has also been canvassing with Harrow East and Chipping Barnet Conservatives laying the groundwork for 2014. She joined Croydon North Conservatives at the launch of their by-election campaign following the death of Malcolm Wicks.

Marina was invited to the opening of

the new premises of the Beckenham Conservative Association. The new association building was opened by former MP Sir Philip Goodhart who served the Beckenham constituency for 35 years. Current MP Col. Bob Stewart was also present. Marina also joined Romford Town Conservative councillors at their annual dinner.



**LEWISHAM: With Simon Nundy**



**ROMFORD: At Annual Dinner**

## MARINA SUPPORTS MALALA

Marina tabled a resolution in the European Parliament in support of Malala Yousafzai, the 15-year-old Pakistani girl shot in the head by the Taliban. Malala, who was flown to the UK for treatment following the shooting, had been demanding education rights for women in Pakistan. Marina supports universal education in the developing world, especially for girls who are often overlooked. The worsening trend of violent extremism in Pakistan constitutes a great threat to women and girls through the misinterpretation of Islam. The international community must react strongly to the use of intimidation and violence and ensure that girls like Malala are protected and that radical criminals don't seize the agenda in Pakistan.

**If you would like Marina to speak at a London event email: [marina.yannakoudakis@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:marina.yannakoudakis@europarl.europa.eu)**