



LATEST NEWS

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# NO TO EU BUDGET HIKE!

At a time austerity we need to cut our coat according to our cloth. All over the EU, not least in the UK, governments are looking at their own budgets and making painful cuts. In countries like Greece, Portugal and Spain, the crisis has led to high unemployment and social unrest. Against this background Marina is appalled at the European Union's efforts to increase its own budget, especially when it is imposing austerity on its Member States. We cannot afford to approve a €1 trillion budget for the EU when the organisation's own auditor has said that billions are still being wasted every year by the Member States and the European Commission. Many members of the European Parliament, especially those in the Socialist and Liberal groups believe that more Europe is better Europe. Marina disagrees and is fighting to see sensible cuts made to the bloated EU budget to ensure that her constituents receive better value for money. In a recent debate in parliament she said: "As a former businesswoman, I know that it is possible to make cuts to any budget." Marina criticised calls to end the UK's rebate. She believes that we should do all in our power to protect the rebate, which was fought for and won by Margaret Thatcher in 1984. Lib Dem MEPs have voted to wind up the rebate and it has been criticised by the European Commissioner for budgets who said it had "lost its original legitimacy". Against a background of austerity, unchecked EU overspending and waste, the UK rebate is more relevant than ever.



**RED LINE: Standing up for British interests**

In the recent vote on the important issue of the EU's long-term budget, one-third of UKIP MEPs didn't vote including leader Nigel Farage, Deputy Paul Nuttall and London MEP Gerard Batten. For a full list of votes see: <http://bit.ly/TSMhGP>

## MARINA URGES ABUSE VICTIMS TO SPEAK OUT



**With Heidi Dettinger (Germany), Peter Saunders (UK), Astrid Pouppez de Kettenis & Lieve Halsberghe (Belgium) & Maivic Cabou (Spain)**

Child sexual abuse is a sickening crime. As a lead negotiator on European Union legislation on the sexual abuse, sexual exploitation of children and child pornography, Marina learned that the mistreatment of children knows no boundaries. Here is where the EU can, for once, have added value – by protecting our children. And survivors' organisations have an important role to play here.

We need to listen to survivors and give them the support they need. Abusers don't want their victims to have a voice and by confronting their attackers, children and adults alike are making it more difficult for abusers to continue to exploit children. Even if abusers are long dead like Jimmy Savile, it is important that those who have been abused are given a voice.

Marina, who is a patron of the European Federation of People Abused in Childhood (EFPAC), organised an event Parliament for survivors' groups.

She believes that we need to create a network of organisations which not only can provide assistance to those who have been abused in childhood but also encourage them to speak out. The event brought together Peter Saunders, President of the UK's National Association for People Abused in Childhood and representatives from Belgium, Germany and Spain.



**Follow Marina on Twitter at: @MarinaMEP**



**Join Marina on Facebook at: <http://facebook.com/MarinaMEP>**



**Marina's YouTube channel: <http://www.youtube.com/user/MarinaMEP>**

# LEST WE FORGET

The Mayor of Richmond Cllr Rita Miller joined Marina on a visit to the Poppy Factory in south-west London. 12 million poppies were made there this year and the factory is celebrating its 90th anniversary of making poppies, crosses and wreaths for the Royal British Legion's annual Remembrance Day appeal. They met with disabled former service personnel who make the poppies. She also tried her luck at making a poppy and even made one of the flowers one-handed. The factory also acts as a charity which helps wounded, injured or sick ex-servicemen and women into mainstream



**OUR TROOPS: With members of Royal Logistics Corps at City Hall**

employment. The London MEPs attended the annual service at City Hall



**POPPY FACTORY : With Chief Exec, staff, Mayor & consort**

where Mayor Boris Johnson gave a moving rendition of "In Flanders Field". Marina also met with servicemen who have been recently returned from active duty. She thanked them for their service and discussed the conditions on their latest deployments.

On Remembrance Sunday, Marina attended the ceremony at Hendon War Memorial where she laid a wreath alongside Hendon MP Matthew Offord and Barnet Mayor Cllr Brian Schama.

# AROUND LONDON

It's annual dinner season and your London MEP has been joining local Conservative activists socially across London. She has also been helping to canvass with local councillors and London MPs to prepare for the 2014 council and European elections.



**ILFORD NORTH: With Chairman Irene Dunkley, Cllr Keith Prince & Lee Scott**

Marina attended annual dinners with the Finchley & Golders Green, Beckenham and Enfield North associations. She also joined Communities Secretary Eric Pickles and her MEP colleague Syed Kamall at the Conservative Muslim Forum's Eid al-adha reception. Marina has also been out canvassing with London MPs and local associations. She joined Lee Scott in Ilford North and gave a helping hand to Mary Macleod in Brentford &

Isleworth. The response has been

positive, but we need to knock on many more doors between now and 2014!



**BECKENHAM: With Association Treasurer Alan Collins & Work & Pensions Secretary Iain Duncan Smith**

# MARINA LEADS FIGHT AGAINST TRAFFICKING



**CWO: Speaking on trafficking**

"One who is another's property, a helpless victim of some dominating influence": you might be forgiven for thinking this is the definition of trafficking. In fact it's the definition of slavery. Marina took part in a discussion organised by the London branch of the Conservative Women's Organisation on modern-day slavery: trafficking in people. Extreme poverty, family breakdown and domestic violence contribute to some of the root causes of human trafficking. In the UK we estimate approximately 5,000 victims are trafficked, of which 330 are children. Marina has worked on EU legislation on human trafficking and is a member the special committee on organised crime where she focuses on trafficking. The CWO event was also attended by Phil Knight of the Just Enough Foundation. Phil is an inspirational young man who incarcerated himself for two weeks in a container to raise awareness of human trafficking

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