

Marina Yannakoudakis



Conservative MEP for London



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BRUSSELS' WAR ON SAVERS



■ Marina believes in rewarding hard work and in making it easier for people to save for a rainy day. That is why she was outraged at EU plans which would mean that ordinary savers in Cyprus, including 60,000 British ex-pats, would be forced to lose up to 10% of their savings to bailout the country's banks. The euro crisis is far from over and for the first time Brussels is dipping its fingers into the piggy banks of ordinary savers in order to shore up the discredited single currency. Cypriot MPs were right to reject the deal and although the future for the island's economy is uncertain, ordinary savers will not be forced to prop up the euro.

THIS MONTH MARINA HAS:

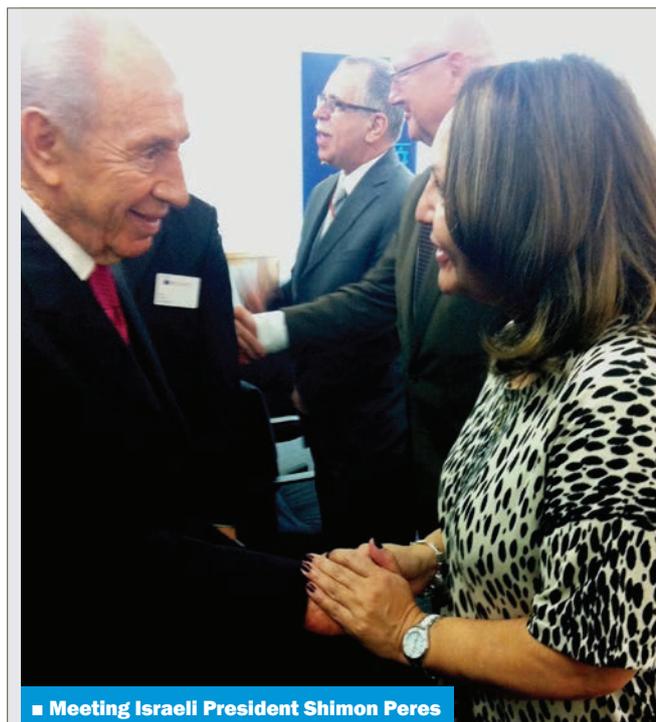
- Voted in favour of David Cameron's hard-fought EU budget cut; 506 MEPs, including twelve Lib Dems, refused to support the cuts.
- Been interviewed by Jeremy Vine and Adam Boulton on the unfair terms of the EU bailout for Cyprus.
- Met with Israeli President Shimon Peres in Brussels and supported his call for the EU to recognise Hizbollah as a terrorist organisation.
- Called on the EU to stop interfering in the UK's employment policy in a debate on BBC Radio 4's Woman's Hour.
- Spoken at nine different association AGMs across London.

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EU MUST GET TOUGH ON TERRORISM



■ Meeting Israeli President Shimon Peres

Israeli President Shimon Peres made an official visit to the European Union institutions where he called on the EU to recognise Hizbollah as a terrorist organisation. Currently the EU classifies Hizbollah as "social welfare organisation" in spite of the murder of five Israelis and one Bulgarian by Hizbollah on European soil. Marina believes that this should be a wake-up call for the European Union, especially if – as President Peres said in his speech to MEPs in Strasbourg – "the Europe of Shoah has truly become the Europe of support for Israel's renaissance". Marina has written to EU Foreign Affairs chief Cathy Ashton asking her to make right this shameful anomaly. She is working with fellow MEPs to support an outright EU ban on Hizbollah.

ENERGY PRICES



■ Marina on a visit to e-on's Enfield Power Station

■ Marina voted against reform of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) in the European Parliament's Environment Committee. The ETS was meant to reduce pollution, but in fact it has just lead to increased energy costs for businesses and consumers. The annual take of ETS-related taxes in the UK is nearly £2bn a year. Marina supports efforts to address climate change, but believes we must be wary of passing the costs onto consumers in their energy bills, especially at a time of austerity.

TORIES ON TOUR



■ Marina invited groups of visitors from four London constituency Conservative Associations to visit the European Parliament in Brussels and to find more about her work. Groups from Hornchurch & Upminster, Ilford North, Hampstead & Kilburn and Tottenham Conservative associations learned about the work that Marina does in parliament to stand up for the interests of her London constituents. Contact Marina to arrange a visit in 2014.

COMMONWEALTH



■ Marina is a member of the European Parliament's Friends of the Commonwealth Group. Earlier this month she attended the group's annual Commonwealth Day reception in Strasbourg (pictured here with group Chairman and Cypriot MEP Eleni Theodorou, Canadian Ambassador to the EU David Plunkett and fellow Conservative MEP Philip Bradbourn). Commonwealth GDP is currently expanding at a much faster rate than that of the eurozone, with a predicted annual growth of 7.3% until 2017. The EU has a free trade agreement (FTA) with South Africa. It will soon finalise an FTA with Canada worth £17.5 bn in extra economic activity and an agreement with India is in the pipeline. The UK needs to have better market access to its former colonies, especially those whose economies are strengthening.

AROUND LONDON



March is association AGM season and Marina has travelled to all corners of the capital to update party members about her efforts to cut red tape, promote employment and ensure that London gets a good deal from the increasingly bureaucratic EU. Marina was also on hand to help out in council by-elections in Gospel Oak, Evelyn and Gooshays. She was the guest speaker at lunch events in Croydon and Chingford and took part in a Question Time event in Bexleyheath with with MPs David Evennett and Col. Bob Stewart as well as Cllr Gareth Bacon, member of the London Assembly.

AGRICULTURE



■ MEPs voted for a reform of the Common Agricultural Policy which heads in the wrong direction. It allows payments to tobacco-growers and may lead to a return to milk lakes and butter mountains. Marina tabled amendments to protect cane refiners including London's Tate & Lyle. The proposed new CAP rules currently create an uneven playing field for cane and beet, but the fight goes on!

WORKING ALL YEAR ROUND FOR LONDON