

Marina Yannakoudakis



Conservative MEP for London



MAY 2013

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MARINA'S EHC WARNING



■ As many Londoners plan their summer holidays, there is worrying news from the Mediterranean that public hospitals are refusing to treat British holidaymakers travelling with a European Health Insurance Card. Marina has raised the issue directly with EU Health Commissioner Tonio Borg who has promised to investigate any breaches of the rules which entitle British visitors to the same level of treatment as local citizens. Marina says: "It's outrageous that EU public hospitals are refusing to treat travellers with an EHIC. But it's important to remember that the EHIC is not valid at private hospitals, nor does it cover repatriation to the UK."

THIS MONTH MARINA HAS:

- Been re-nominated by members of the Conservative Party to stand again as a London MEP in 2014.
- Protested against a Spanish MEP and Labour Party ally who publicly claimed that the Falkland Islands were not British.
- Supported newly elected Conservative mayors at borough events across the capital.
- Led criticism of the EU's planned ban on refillable olive oil bottles and dipping bowls. Following Marina's comments to Reuters the ban was overturned.
- Made a speech condemning planned EU media regulation which would impede a free press.

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FALKLANDS INSULT



■ On an official European Parliament visit to Argentina, Spanish Socialist MEP Luis Yáñez-Barnuevo García is reported to have said "British sovereignty over the Falkland Islands as such is not accepted by the European parliament." Marina reacted angrily to these comments, immediately writing to the Spanish MEP calling on him to consider his position as chair of one of the parliament's overseas delegations. She also made a speech to the full parliament calling on him to apologise not only to the Falkland islanders but also to families of the 255 servicemen who died in the defence of the islands. In her speech she said: "it is shameful that this same member ignores the will of the Falkland islanders themselves, who in March this year voted overwhelmingly in favour of retaining their ties with the UK."

Video of Marina's speech:
<http://youtu.be/doXpGWin4nk>

■ Marina on a private visit to Port Stanley

ANIMAL WELFARE



■ Marina was proud to be the first MEP to officially visit Battersea Dogs & Cats Home. She was invited on a tour because of her work on EU regulations on the non-commercial movement of animals, especially following a rise in illegal traders abusing the Pet Passport system. There has been a rise in the number of young puppies coming into the UK from countries such as Lithuania, Hungary and Slovakia, where the rabies risk is high. Dogs with suspect paperwork may not be properly vaccinated against diseases like rabies and put animals and humans at risk. The new rules on the non-commercial movement of animals were approved by the European Parliament this month. Marina championed measures which increase vigilance while still making it easy for pets to travel with their owners to and from the continent.

HEALTH EVENT



■ As the lead Conservative MEP on health issues in the European Parliament, Marina organised an event to discuss the current state of health in Europe. The discussion brought together MEPs, health practitioners and EU Health Commissioner Tonio Borg who focused on the issues of patient safety, the medical devices directive and innovation in healthcare. The meeting was chaired by Marina's predecessor as London MEP, John Bowis, who is the honorary President of Health First Europe.

OLIVE OIL U-TURN



■ The European Commission caused a storm in a dipping bowl when it introduced plans to ban refillable oil jugs and bowls from restaurant tables. The move was supported by olive oil producing countries such as Spain, Italy and Greece in the interest of "hygiene". The planned ban was withdrawn following widespread criticism, including from Marina. In an interview with Reuters, she said that the decision called into question the legitimacy and judgment of the EU and added: "the economic crisis in these countries isn't because of olive oil, it's because of the euro, and they should be concentrating on solving that problem."

AROUND LONDON



In May London borough councils elect their new mayors. Marina has been attending events to mark both the stepping down of outgoing mayors at the end of their year of office and the taking up of duties by the new first citizens of their boroughs. Marina attended a charity event for Barnet's outgoing mayor Brian Schama. The event, which included from journalist and MP as the speaker, raised money for Barnet Hospital and the Barnet Carers Centre. Marina also attended the inaugural dinner of new Croydon mayor Yvette Hopley and the civic service of thanksgiving for Richmond mayor Meena Bond.

D-DAY FOR TATE



■ Agriculture Ministers are currently hammering out the final details of the reform of the EU's common agricultural policy. Marina has been fighting to protect jobs at London's historic Tate & Lyle factory as EU rules are putting the squeeze on cane refiners. Marina has been lobbying DEFRA and hopes Secretary of State Owen Paterson will back a fair deal.

WORKING ALL YEAR ROUND FOR LONDON