

**Working for you  
since  
1999**

A portrait of Charles Tannock, a middle-aged man with short, light brown hair, wearing a dark grey suit jacket, a light blue shirt, and a yellow patterned tie. He is sitting with his hands clasped in front of him, looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

**Charles Tannock MEP**  
**LONDON'S VOICE IN THE EU**

## Frequently asked questions

What does an MEP do?

MEPs are elected to represent the interests of their constituents in the European Parliament. Our primary role is to examine, amend, approve or reject EU laws proposed by the European Commission or the Council of Ministers.

### What's your average week like?

Always extremely busy and full of meetings, but always varied too. From Monday to Thursday I am in either Brussels or Strasbourg for committee meetings, debates and votes. On Fridays I meet and visit constituents all over the London region, and usually attend local constituency association or community events at the weekend.

Why is there a Parliament in Brussels AND Strasbourg?

Strasbourg is on the French-German border and for those countries is symbolic of post-war reconciliation. This has little resonance now in an EU stretching from the Arctic to the Aegean. However, EU law states that Parliament must meet in Strasbourg 12 times a year. Conservatives are strongly opposed to this scandalous **waste of taxpayers' money.**

Why does London have eight MEPs?

Unlike at Westminster, MEPs are elected using a system of regional proportional representation. Voters choose a party rather than an individual and MEPs are elected from **a party list, according to that party's** share of the vote. For the 2009-2014 term London has three Conservatives, two Labour MEPs, one Green, one Lib Dem and one UKIP member.

### What's the best part of the job?

Undoubtedly the most satisfying part of the job is being able to help constituents with issues and concerns related to the functioning of the EU. I also enjoy meeting and working with so many different people from all **across Europe. And as a Londoner it's great representing the world's best city.**

How do I contact you?

I always like to hear from constituents. You can contact me via [www.charlestannock.com](http://www.charlestannock.com), my website; you can email me directly; you can write to me in London or Brussels; or you can call my offices in London or Brussels. All my contact details are on the back cover of this booklet.

## A personal message

**F**or as long as Britain remains part of the European Union we need to fight strongly for the best deal – for London and Londoners.

### That's been my guiding principle ever since

I was first elected to the European Parliament. It has been my honour and privilege to represent our great capital city and region of London since 1999.

**Our campaign slogan back then was 'In Europe, not run by Europe'. That still** encapsulates my approach to the EU today. I want to see an EU doing less in the UK but doing it better.

Since I became an MEP the European Parliament has become increasingly powerful both in political influence as well as deciding on our laws, and the EU – whether we like it or not – plays an important part in the life of London and Londoners.

**I share Prime Minister David Cameron's vision of a looser, more flexible EU in which** Britain thrives.

I applaud his recent speech pledging to seek reform of the EU, restore the balance of power between London and Brussels and offer the British people a referendum.

Our region needs influential and committed representatives in the European Parliament. As your longest-serving Conservative MEP for London I am proud to be leading its voice in the EU – ensuring our region benefits to the maximum.

I work hard to ensure your voice is heard in Brussels — in fact in 2010 the *Sunday Telegraph* **declared me the UK's best value-for-money MEP.**

With your support I hope to continue.





*Addressing the Conservative society at King's College London*



*At a Remembrance Day service with Mayor Boris Johnson and Deputy Mayor Victoria Borwick AM*



*With Subrina Hossain, CEO of NTV Bangladeshi TV in East London following an interview*

## MEP for London

**It's a huge privilege to represent the London region in the European Parliament.** Arguably no other region in Europe is as diverse, as vibrant and as promising as London.

The European Union touches upon our **lives in so many ways.** It's therefore vital that when it comes to promoting, protecting and defending the interests of London and Londoners, the Conservative voice is heard loud and clear.

**I'm committed to making sure the London region and its eight million people get the best deal from the EU.** I believe the UK should be active and engaged, fighting to ensure that the EU focuses on where it can add value to **people's lives. I am here to represent your interests in Brussels; it's not my job to try to promote the EU in London** (the EU already wastes huge amounts of money trying to do just that and it seems to end up alienating people rather than making a positive case for membership).

**In my time as an MEP I've worked hard to help people and businesses in London benefit from the EU – through the single market, the freedom of movement provisions and various funding opportunities – and I've helped them to raise their concerns when EU legislation affects them negatively.** In particular I am proud of the work I

have done to expose breaches of EU air quality standards in London, my **opposition to Heathrow's third runway** and my work to promote London as the **globe's financial heart.**

Also, my work as a foreign policy specialist brings me into regular contact **with London's many ethnic and cultural communities,** which is both interesting and richly rewarding.

### Holding the EU to account

Submitting parliamentary questions is one of the most powerful tools MEPs have at their disposal to hold the other EU institutions to account, and to raise directly the concerns of constituents.

I have submitted questions on a behalf of constituents recently on a wide range of issues including: the case of Ahmadiyyah Muslims kidnapped and tortured in Libya; the suspected role of pesticides in the dramatic fall in honey bee numbers; the rehabilitation of child soldiers; violence against Hindus and Buddhists in Bangladesh; sanctions against Zimbabwe; the persecution of the Falun Gong movement in China; female genital mutilation; anti-gay legislation in Nigeria; charges for Schengen visa applications made by spouses of UK citizens; and the need for justice and reconciliation in Sri Lanka.

**If you have any issues you'd like me to raise in this way, please don't hesitate to get in touch.** Contact details are on the back cover of this booklet.



*A briefing at Northwood from senior naval officers working on the anti-piracy EU Atalanta mission*



*With Deputy Mayor Richard Barnes AM presenting prizes to high **academic achievers from London's Somali**lander community*



*Cheering for Team GB at the London Paralympics*

## Fighting for animal welfare



*Campaigning for better transport conditions for live horses across the EU*

I have long been at the forefront of efforts to enhance animal welfare across the EU. **Whether it's improving the conditions of live animals being exported, championing a ban on the horrific trade in cat and dog fur, calling for an end to EU subsidies for bullfighting or questioning the government's badger cull,** I have always supported efforts to put animal welfare at the heart of EU policy-making.



*Backing efforts to enhance the welfare of dairy cows in Europe*



*Calling for an end to the cruel and wasteful practice of cutting fins off sharks at sea and returning the animals to the water*



*With Queen legend Brian May, calling on UK ministers to rethink the badger cull*

## Backing London's businesses

EU regulations affect every aspect of business life – **whether it's** employment conditions, health and safety, labelling, consumer rights or import restrictions. Many of these regulations have been good news for London consumers and businesses alike but some have risked damaging **our region's economy.** Much of my work is taken up with meeting London business leaders and entrepreneurs to discuss the effects of EU legislation and respond to their concerns. I have also been vocal in defending the City and its vital role as **Europe's leading centre for financial services.** I'm especially conscious of the need to safeguard



*At Fuller's brewery in Chiswick, hearing concerns about EU regulation*

any attempts by eurozone governments to impact negatively on UK interests.



*With MPs celebrating a Queen's Award for Industry to Sunmark UK and chairman Rami Ranger*



*Immarsat CEO Rupert Pearce tells me of his company's global telecoms ambitions*



*Amazing animation techniques at the world-famous Pinewood studios*



*A brief respite in the Christmas rush at the Royal Mail sorting office in Battersea*

# Serving London and Londoners as a proud Conservative



Discussing local issues with constituents in Hillingdon



In Hendon celebrating the 40th anniversary of the RAF museum with Cllr Hugh Rayner (RAF rtd)



Visiting Larkwood with Conservative councillors John Moss and Nick Buckmaster



Listening to Conservative councillors in Ilford



Campaigning in Hounslow against a third Heathrow runway with MPs Theresa Villiers and Mary Macleod



With Roger Evans AM and local MP Andrew Rosindell in Romford



Celebrating the contribution of London's Portuguese community at a gala dinner in Battersea



With Conservative Future members at London Bridge



Attending a charity fundraiser in Richmond for Children of Latin America, of which I am a patron



Engaging with citizens' concerns in Clapham



Meeting constituents in Croydon with local MP Gavin Barwell



In Bromley with Mayor Boris Johnson, Orpington MP Jo Johnson and James Cleverly AM

# Foreign affairs & human rights



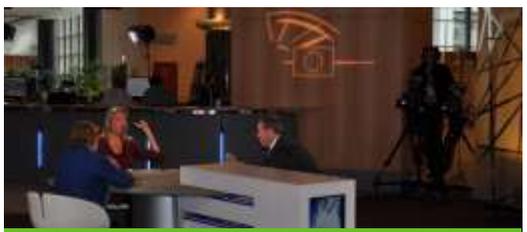
*With the Grand Master of the Order of Malta, opening an exhibition in the European Parliament*



*Being interviewed for 'The One Show' on reform of the Strasbourg human rights court*



*Speaking at a conference on the Middle East's persecuted Christian minorities*



*Defending the UK's policy on Europe against a French MEP during a France 24 TV debate*

In today's globalised world Britain's foreign policy is increasingly conducted through multilateral organisations such as the G20, the UN—and especially the EU.

The challenges we in Britain face are challenges that other European countries and our major global economic partners face too – for example fighting terrorism and international crime, managing migration flows, defending external borders, mitigating climate change, energy security, arms control, nuclear proliferation and managing international development aid.

Gone are the days when diplomacy was just about state-to-state relations. Today, foreign policy is a broad umbrella shaped by many interests that often coincide but sometimes conflict.

Being part of the EU gives Britain more influence internationally—but we must always be free to shape our own **foreign policy**, mindful of our country's unique history.

### My role in the Parliament

I sit on the Committee on Foreign Affairs and both its Subcommittees on Human Rights and Security and Defence. I am the spokesman on foreign affairs and human rights for the UK Conservative delegation. I am also coordinator for the European Conservatives and Reformists Group on foreign affairs and human rights.



*Discussing global LGBT persecution with constituents*



*With ministers at a party conference Friends of Cyprus reception*



*Meeting Falklands politicians in my role as European Parliament adviser for British overseas territories*



*Remembering the Holocaust with a constituent in Brussels*



*At the inaugural meeting of the European Parliament Friends of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries*



*Meeting the press in Berbera, Somaliland*



*With the High Commissioners of Bangladesh and India and Foreign Office minister Lord Howell*



*Meeting the President of Colombia at his residence in Bogota*

# I take a special interest in...

## CYPRUS

I participate every year in the annual rally for London's Greek Cypriot community. I have echoed the Cypriot government's demands for an end to the Turkish occupation of the north of the island. I have also pressed Turkey, a candidate for EU membership, to end its ban on Cypriot ships docking at Turkish ports.

## WESTERN BALKANS

As the European Parliament's rapporteur on EU candidate country Montenegro I monitor the country's progress towards meeting membership criteria. I have long supported efforts to consolidate peace through greater regional integration and as well as Montenegro I have been especially vociferous in support of Serbia and Macedonia.

## UKRAINE

I continue to call on EU leaders to leave open the possibility of EU membership for Ukraine, which, despite recent setbacks, is an economic powerhouse and a vital security partner for NATO. Ukraine's former President awarded me the Order of Merit of Ukraine for my work during the 2004 Orange Revolution.

## ARMENIA

I serve on the board of the European Friends of Armenia and work to promote a just and peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh frozen conflict. I am a proud recipient of the Medal of Mkhitar Gosh from the President of Armenia in recognition of my work to promote EU-Armenia relations.

## UNITED STATES

Through my role as vice-chairman of the European Parliament's delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly I work for a transatlantic security alliance with America at its heart. I support NATO as the cornerstone of the UK's security and defence policy.

## TAIWAN

As a long-standing admirer of Taiwan's prosperous democracy I serve as chairman of the European Parliament-Taiwan Friendship Group. I welcome the peaceful transformation of relations with mainland China since 2008 and I played a leading role in securing visa-free travel for Taiwanese citizens to the EU.

## LATIN AMERICA

I have forged close links to Latin American diaspora communities and speak Spanish and Portuguese fluently. I have been a firm friend of Colombia and its fight against narcoterrorism. I was decorated by the government of Colombia with the Order of San Carlos for services to international relations.

## ISRAEL

I support a strong friendship with Israel based on shared democratic values and the need to fight the common threat of Islamist terrorism. I enjoy a close partnership with London's Jewish community and am vice-chairman of a working group on anti-Semitism in the European Parliament.

## HORN OF AFRICA

I support London's vibrant Somalilander community and want to see Somaliland, one of Africa's success stories, re-recognised as a sovereign state. As European Parliament rapporteur on the Horn of Africa I have pressed for the EU to prioritise the region's security and environmental challenges.

## INDIA

I am a co-founder and former president of the Friends of India in the European Parliament. I have pressed the European Commission to make progress on an EU-India free trade agreement and I want to see the EU doing more to help India combat jihadi terrorism.

## BANGLADESH

I co-founded the Conservative Friends of Bangladesh and led the European Parliament's observation mission for the country's 2008 election. I back the continued development of secular democracy in this strategically vital country. I champion closer trade ties between the UK/EU and Bangladesh and I work closely with the UK's Bangladeshi community.

## A champion of better healthcare



*At the site of the new Francis Crick Institute in St Pancras, a global leader in medical research which will benefit from EU funding*

As a former NHS Consultant I follow developments in the health sector closely.

Although the EU has no direct responsibility for delivering healthcare it plays an important role in funding research, promoting trans-national cooperation, developing communication campaigns on public health issues and helping EU member states share best practice.

I am regularly involved in health-related initiatives designed to highlight certain conditions or **illnesses and to shape the EU's public health priorities**, particularly in the fight against cancer.



*Speaking at a European Parliament seminar on tackling colorectal cancer*



*Visiting Cancer Research UK's labs in Lincoln's Inn Fields*



*Learning about pioneering EU-funded gene therapy at the Institute of Ophthalmology, University College London*

## Thank you Charles...

Your support from the **earliest days ... has made** it all possible. It was your idea all those years ago to set up a campaign and I still tell people it was down to you! – Simon Birkett, Founder, Clean Air in London

Thank you very much for your help in securing my maternity healthcare - constituent, Middlesex

It is always good to see our elected representatives standing up for LGBT issues and against those countries who continue to have barbaric and outdated laws on homosexuality – Matthew Sephton, LGBTory Chairman

It is always cheering to see elected representatives interact with their constituents and speak to local schools. good work.. – James Heale, Kingston Grammar School

Thank you for your solidarity and support for the Republic of **Cyprus' struggle** for a just and lasting democratic solution – Michael Ellinas, President, Democratic Party of Cypriots in England

I wanted to personally express my appreciation for...your support for Israel and the British Jewish community in general – Vivian Wineman, President, The Board of Deputies of British Jews

I very much appreciate the time you gave to ensure such a positive outcome for our young people - Ealing Housing & Social Services Teenagers to Work programme

Please accept my thanks for your hard work on getting my French state pension restored. It is being paid again – constituent, SW18

We are extremely grateful for your work - Christian Solidarity Worldwide

It is very heartening to know that you are so concerned about animal welfare – constituent, Bexleyheath

Due to your kind letter of support our application [for EU funding] was successful. You were brilliant! - Flying Gorillas dance company, W11

As always, you came up trumps – Enfield Southgate Conservative Association

*A moment of humour with the PM at No. 10*



## Visiting the European Parliament



The European Parliament operates a system of subsidised visits to enable MEPs to bring constituents to the Parliament in either Brussels or Strasbourg. Visitors get a guided tour of the Parliament and a detailed explanation of how it works.

I am allocated a limited number of subsidised places available for constituents. If you or your organisation are interested in putting a group together (minimum ten people) please contact me using the details given below.

### Contacting me

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#### Your Conservative MEPs in London

I am one of a team of three Conservative MEPs representing London. My colleagues are Marina Yannakoudakis MEP and Syed Kamall MEP.

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