

Conservative MEPs

Delivering for Britain

London Conservative MEPs Report Back 2002

Theresa Villiers • Charles Tannock • Nicholas Bethell • John Bowis • Richard Balfe
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Your team of London MEPs would like to tell you about their work for you over the last few months. Here is an update on some of their activities.

Back row: Charles Tannock, John Bowis and Nicholas Bethell. Front row, Richard Balfe and Theresa Villiers



John Bowis MEP Campaigning on Pen Ponds in Richmond Park



*Richard Balfe
MEP with the Rt
Hon Iain Duncan
Smith MP*

Stopping Over-Regulation and Red Tape

Some legislation is useful and designed to protect people from cross-border risks or to open markets to our goods and services. Often, however, laws are proposed which are unnecessary or excessive. With his Conservative colleagues, John Bowis has ensured that the European Commission now has to report on the implementation and effectiveness of existing regulations before new ones are submitted and that job, cost, environment and health impact assessments are carried out on each new proposal. The Conservative team, including John Bowis and Theresa Villiers, have been campaigning to stop intrusive and unnecessary new EU regulations on issues such as ladders, biscuits and music in pubs.



*Theresa Villiers MEP,
Deputy Leader of the
Conservatives in the
European Parliament.*

*Theresa continues her long
running campaign against
European tax
harmonisation.*

No to the Euro

Theresa Villiers invited Janet Bush from the "No Campaign" to Brussels to discuss the tactics for campaigning against the euro.

A series of discussions took place with Conservatives including John Bowis and Charles Tannock and a range of other MEPs who oppose the euro, from countries including Denmark, France, Sweden, Ireland and Finland.

Looking Outwards to the Rest of the World

As Conservative Foreign Affairs Spokesman, Charles Tannock has taken a close interest in the crisis on the Indian subcontinent, making a speech at the time of the attack by Kashmiri Islamic terrorists on the Indian Parliament and drafting the Parliament's resolution on the religious riots in Gujarat.

He received a letter from the Indian Government inviting him to visit their country and thanking him for his efforts.

He has started a campaign for a joint nomination of the former King of Afghanistan and Commander Masood for the Nobel Peace prize.

He has questioned the Commission regarding the allegations on the use of EU money to fund Palestinian terrorists whilst at the same time urging the Israeli Government to show restraint in the face of terrible provocation, and resume dialogue for a peaceful settlement.

He is also a member of the European Parliament's delegation to Slovakia. Whilst he welcomes EU enlargement to include countries like Slovakia, he and your Conservative team want an expanded EU to be a looser and more flexible arrangement and actively resist any further transfer of power to Brussels.

Richard Balfe and John Bowis are both members of the Joint Parliamentary Assembly of the Agreement between the African, Caribbean and Pacific States and the European Union. John Bowis is working on human rights issues.

A substantial part of the work of the Joint Assembly is directed towards promoting economic rights - Richard Balfe was recently appointed to the committee working on these issues.

Nicholas Bethell and Richard Balfe went on a fact-finding mission to Murmansk, the north Russian port, to monitor the build-up of out of date Russian nuclear submarines, whose rusting hulks pose a danger to all northern Europe and beyond, including this country.

Nicholas Bethell is President of Friends of Cyprus, a body of British parliamentarians who, for the last 28 years, have been working to find an agreement between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots that will bring peace to the island. Theresa Villiers continues to work on the Cyprus issue, inviting leading British Cypriots to Brussels for high level discussions on Cyprus's accession to the EU.



Theresa Villiers MEP with Councillor Suresh Kansangra, Councillor Uma Fernandes and Councillor Reg Colwill after calling on local residents in Northwick Park. Theresa works closely with local Conservatives around the constituency in campaigning.

Getting a Good Deal for the Consumer

Nicholas Bethell has maintained his 22-year long campaign for cheaper European air travel and has agitated for greater choice for the British air traveller. His 'Freedom of the Skies Campaign' has had some success in bringing new operators into Britain's air services. In other areas, for instance supermarkets, he has fought for greater consumer choice.

Theresa Villiers has campaigned hard to end anti-competitive practices in the car market and bring more competition and hence cheaper car prices. She wants to make it easier for British consumers to buy their cars from dealers from other EU countries.



Charles Tannock MEP with General Phillippe Morillon MEP and Abdullah Abdullah Foreign Minister of Afghanistan. As well as his work on Foreign Affairs, Charles is a Party whip which keeps him involved in the overseeing of party discipline and voting positions as well as participating in directing the voting during plenary sessions.

John Bowis MEP's press conference in East Timor as the EU's Chief Observer for the Presidential Election





Charles Tannock MEP with the Rt Hon Iain Duncan Smith MP and Owen Paterson MP in Gibraltar on their way to the Governor's Palace.

Defending Gibraltar

Nicholas Bethell chairs the group of 6 British MEPs elected to represent the interests of the people of Gibraltar within the European Union and he leads the fight against the UK government's plans to give them away to Spain. He arranged for the Chief Minister of Gibraltar to visit Strasbourg. Charles Tannock is also a nominated MEP for Gibraltar and accompanied IDS on a trip to the territory (as well as Portugal and France) as political adviser. On the trip, IDS strongly endorsed the demands of Gibraltarians to retain their links with Britain and recognised the strategic military role of the territory.



Picture above: Richard Balfe MEP and Charles Tannock MEP with teenagers from Ealing, who visited the European Parliament this year.

Pictured below: Richard Balfe MEP with Shadow Foreign Secretary, Rt Hon Michael Ancram QC MP



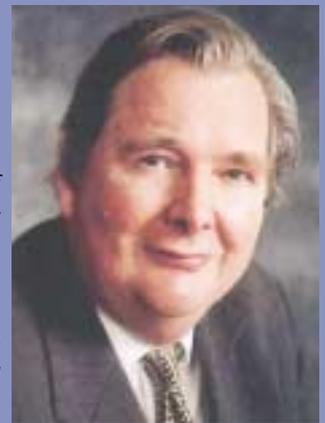
Left: Nicholas Bethell MEP at a press conference in Strasbourg with the Chief Minister of Gibraltar, Peter Caruana

Right: Charles Tannock MEP with Jeremy Zeid, Vipin Mithani and Conservative Cllr Adrian Knowles using sign language with a member of the public in Harrow



Nicholas Bethell MEP

Nicholas' eyes are always open for the possibility of grants for London boroughs offered by the European social fund and regional fund.



Environment

As Party Spokesman, John Bowis leads the fight for a workable balance between health, jobs and our environment.

This ranges from waste disposal, where he exposed Labour Ministers' failings on fridges and electronic goods, to packaging, emissions and water quality. He works closely with Westminster colleagues on these issues.

Petitions

The Petitions committee of the European Parliament, of which Richard Balfe is a member, considers petitions sent in from across the EU. If you have a matter of concern, a complaint or a request for the EP to take a stance on a matter of public interest you too can submit a petition at www.europarl.ep.ec/petition/petition_en.htm.



Standing up for the City

Your London MEPs have been working hard for the interests of London's most successful exporters, the banks and financial service providers of the City of London.

Theresa Villiers has been keeping key city contacts informed of vital developments in the European Parliament with instant email updates. After her almost single handed fight on the Market Abuse directive (or MAD for short), it now looks as if the threat to financial reporting has been averted. Theresa fought hard against proposals which could have seen financial journalists jailed for making a mistake in an article.

She is now holding a series of top level discussions on the Investment Services Directive with the financial services industry, the European Commission, the Bank of England and the Financial Services Authority etc. This directive (for which Theresa is European Parliament spokesman/rapporteur) has a pivotal

significance for the City of London.

Charles Tannock recently oversaw the 2nd Reading of the Insurance Intermediaries Directive through the Parliament for his Group which will do so much to open up this market to British Industry.

Richard Balfe has taken a close interest in the new Pensions Directive which should make it easier for EU citizens to move their pension contributions and entitlements between EU countries.

The UK system will remain largely unchanged by this new legislation which aims to spread the principles, currently used by UK pension fund managers, of freedom of investment to maximise returns.

When it returns to the Parliament your members, particularly Richard Balfe, Charles Tannock and Theresa Villiers will be working to protect the interests of pensioners and diffuse the pensions time bomb.

Animal Welfare

From Staffies under threat in Germany to protection of endangered species, to humane treatment for farm animals and animals in transport, animal issues are continually on John Bowis' agenda. Most recently he successfully put forward a proposal to phase out cosmetic testing on animals, saving 38,000 animals a year, while ensuring human health is protected.

Theresa Villiers has been working with Charles Tannock and John Bowis against legislation banning the ownership of Staffordshire Bull terriers. At her invitation, the Kennel Club, who have been leading the campaign against breed specific legislation in Europe, visited Strasbourg and addressed a meeting of around 50 MEPs from a wide range of different countries and political parties.



Theresa Villiers MEP with members of London East Conservative Future after an evening in the CCO Geneva Call Centre. In the front are Louise Jones, Cllr Daryl Williams (London East CF Chairman), Claire Slora, Garry Pain, with Gareth Meech and Michael Smith at the back.



John Bowis MEP addressing the Conservative Disability Group in the House of Commons

Health

John Bowis has brought patients, doctors and researchers together to share good health practice - from men's health to diabetes, epilepsy, osteoporosis and mental health. He is in demand to speak on these in London and Europe. He has also fought for common sense on pharmaceuticals, herbals and food supplements.

Charles Tannock amended the Medicinal Products Directive to take into account the leaking of drugs such as the contraceptive pill into the water supplies causing disturbing changes to wildlife and to male fertility.

Contact us

Please contact us with your concerns, complaints or queries or if you want us to raise a matter in the European Parliament for you:

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