

...continued from front page

Regarding Iraq, I accept the need to involve the UN, and welcome the recent attempts by President Bush to do so. In accomplishing this he has exposed the hypocrisy of his critics on the left who happily acquiesced in the bombing of Yugoslavia without UN authorisation and despite the fact that Milosevic, unlike Saddam, had made no attempt whatsoever to acquire and threaten his neighbours with weapons of mass destruction. It is obviously necessary to ensure that proper thought is given to the consequences of any action that is taken and to the form and shape of a post-Saddam settlement. In addition, if Saddam fails to allow UN inspectors unconditional and unfettered access, as he has agreed, an attack will be immediately necessary, though I believe a regime change is intrinsically desirable for the sake of Iraq's long suffering people.

In addition, I have remained a whip and have continued attending the Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee, voting regularly as a substitute member and I have asked Commissioner Monti about the uncompetitive cartel that appears to govern the distribution of newsprint in the UK and Eire, or whether EU law was breached in the Government's PPP initiative for London's tube, and if an Environmental Impact Assessment is required for the Mayor's Congestion Charge Scheme. I also congratulated Commissioner Bolkestein on his opposition to the officious approach adopted by HM Customs against personal importation of alcohol and tobacco which they deemed to be smuggling. The problem could easily be resolved if Gordon Brown were to introduce lower and more competitive UK excise duties. We would then be able to claw back the £4 billion lost to the exchequer and stop people smoking the cheaper, inferior quality smuggled cigarettes (with prohibited additives) coming from Eastern Europe.

Over the last couple of months, I have asked a number of written questions to the Commission on issues ranging from air safety, the cost of bank transfers in the Eurozone and experiments on primates to the high price of CDs in Europe vis a vis the US, the need for urgent reform of the CAP, persecution of dissidents in Guatemala and Tibet and the role of accountancy firms in the light of the scandals on Wall Street. I have also looked at the increasing problem of piracy on the high seas, sometimes involving the murder of crewmen.

The EU Constitutional Convention continues to meet in Brussels under the direction of the former French President Valéry Giscard D'Estaing. Jack Straw appears to have capitulated over the principle of a Constitution for Europe, while there is a real risk of the Charter of Fundamental rights (which threatens to limit the ability to manoeuvre for future

democratically elected governments in a number of social and political areas) being annexed to the next Intergovernmental Treaty. The old Nice Treaty will shortly be subjected to a referendum in Ireland for the second time, although I believe there is a contingency plan to allow enlargement to continue on track even if it is once again rejected. Malta and Poland will be having referenda next year on EU accession and the polls are close. Our own promised referendum on the Euro seems less likely after the British polls remain resolutely sceptic (even after holidaymakers have experienced it first hand over the summer break).

Closer to home, I have joined the Heathrow Cross Party coalition to limit flight numbers at Heathrow and promote the ban on night flights, because I am concerned about the stress caused by noise pollution to residents in West London. As I am sensitive to the economic benefits of Heathrow, I have supported Terminal 5, but not a third runway. Similarly, I have championed the idea that some of the long-haul in-bound flight pressure could be accommodated by passengers using the connection from Paris Charles de Gaulle via Eurostar into London, when the fast link is complete, as this would avoid the need for yet another London airport to be built.

Needless to say, I and my fellow Conservative MEPs are proud to be at the forefront of all these debates which will affect our country's future. I remain convinced that any further significant moves towards integration should only take place with the express approval of the British people.

In the meantime, I hope to meet more of you at the October Party Conference.

Best wishes,

Charles

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Please send your address and phone number (and email if you have one) if you wish to receive regular updates on his work in the European Parliament

The other Conservative London MEP's are: Theresa Villiers, Lord Bethell, John Bowis and Richard Balfe

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MEP *contact*

Conservative MEPs in the European Parliament - Delivering for Britain



Dr Charles Tannock MEP (Conservative London Region) Newsletter October 2002

*Dr. Charles Tannock MEP
Conservative Foreign Affairs Spokesman in the European Parliament*

The European Parliament's summer recess is now over and we were all back at work by the end of August unlike my Westminster colleagues who are yet to reconvene. The House of Commons was, of course, recalled for an emergency debate on the increasing seriousness of the Iraq crisis. The European Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee was similarly recalled in July for a one day emergency session, on this occasion to debate the "crisis" of an invasion of EU territory: namely, the occupation for five days of Parsley Island by Morocco, an event which I likened in my speech to "two bald men arguing over a comb". The whole farce was made even more ridiculous in that, by the time we got to Brussels, the Spanish Government had already taken the island back!

Although I congratulated my former MEP colleague Spanish Foreign Minister, Ana Palacio, on her adept handling of the crisis, it was a useful opportunity to point-out Spain's double standards in continuing to claim Gibraltar whilst resisting Moroccan claims to the North-African enclaves of Ceuta and Mellila. I also criticised the UK Government for supporting a policy of shared sovereignty of Gibraltar against the wishes of its inhabitants.

The sense of betrayal was evident to me in May when I accompanied our Party Leader Iain Duncan Smith to Gibraltar. The trip was a resounding success insofar as it helped to cement a bond between the people of Gibraltar and the Conservative Party. We also visited our oldest ally, Portugal, and met the new Prime Minister Durao Barroso.

Charles with the Rt. Hon Iain Duncan Smith MP – Palacio Sao Bento (PM's Residence) – Portugal May 2002



I had the opportunity of introducing Iain Duncan Smith to the leader of the Portuguese Conservative Party, Paulo Portas, their new Defence Minister who is eager to establish close relations with us in the European Parliament.

In the European Parliament, I have drafted a number of successful amendments to a variety of reports highlighting several areas of concern; ranging from organised crime in Eastern Europe to the need to boost Defence and Security spending by European governments if the EU wants to be taken seriously within NATO and by our US and other allies. In Committee, it often feels as though the Conservatives are in a minority of one in trying to defend or even attempt to explain the American position or concerns over issues such as Iraq, the International Criminal Court, or the death penalty. I am the first to criticise the USA where they have clearly got it wrong, as over steel tariffs or farm subsidies, but I accept the inevitable fact, particularly post September 11th, that America will act against states it perceives to be a threat to itself or to international peace.

...continued on back page

At the House of Commons, Charles met the new President of Colombia, Alvaro Uribe, while he was visiting London. Charles was impressed by his courage and integrity in attempting to resolve the terrible problems facing his country. In particular, he admired his robust stance against FARC Marxist terrorists.

Charles with President Alvaro Uribe of Colombia and Baroness Hooper, President of Canning House.



26 Monday, 24 June 2002 Evening Standard

Letters

Mobile phones a danger to young

THE article by Victoria Fletcher (Mobile phone safety alert, 19 June), reporting the conclusions of the two-year study in Finland, reconfirms that there is enough scientific evidence to justify a more precautionary approach to the unrestricted use of mobile phones.

Two years ago, I tabled a question to the European Commission asking for its views on the health implications of mobile-phone use. This was in the light of an emerging body of evidence suggesting a possible link between brain damage in adults and the use of mobile phones.

I have also asked what measures it proposed to protect children from the risk, given that children's developing brains are more sensitive to electromagnetic radiation and that their skulls are thinner.

Despite this greater risk for children, in its answer the European Commission drew no distinction between the dangers for children and adults.

As a qualified doctor, I feel it important to raise this issue. As of yet, no one has been able to explain why malignant brain tumours have been rising dramatically in the West.

I believe the preliminary evidence justifies a ban on mobile-phone usage for children under the age of 14 years old. I can see no economic advantage in small children (as opposed to the clear advantages for adults in their jobs, etc) having access to mobiles and many parents may be relieved at not having to pay for the cost.

I call upon the Government, following the Stewart Report, to take a clear lead in this area.

**Dr Charles Tannock MEP
for London (Conservative),
European Parliament,
Brussels.**



Tim Loughton MP, Dr. Liam Fox MP and Charles in a Strasbourg hospital.

Charles, as a substitute on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Affairs Committee, has contributed to the key debate on public services both in speeches to London Conservative activists and in organising a trip for Dr. Liam Fox MP to visit French hospitals in Strasbourg. He believes strongly in making the NHS more businesslike, without actually becoming a business, and at the same time boosting the participation of the private sector, as well as, giving incentives for individuals to make a bigger cost contribution to their health care needs. He has campaigned for constituents who have purchased digital hearing aids in the EU to be reimbursed by the NHS and has lobbied the private sector insurers, such as BUPA, to reimburse claims for equivalent surgical procedures abroad.



Charles addressing a CPF conference on Public Services in Chelsea Oct 2001 with Mark Field MP, Dr. Julian Lewis MP, Charles and Cllr Warwick Lightfoot.



Charles meets Ukrainian State Secretary for European Integration, Olexander Chalyi, in Kiev.

During the summer recess, Charles spent a week in the Ukraine after responding to an invitation from two centre-right Ukrainian MPs who had visited London earlier this year. Only 11 years ago the Ukraine was still at the heart of the Soviet Union. Who then could have imagined the immense changes about to unfold in that vast and fascinating part of the world? Charles found it a memorable experience and is now more than ever convinced of the need to bind the Ukraine to the West. He has written an article for The Wall Street Journal Europe about the long term aspirations of this strategic country which can be found on his website.

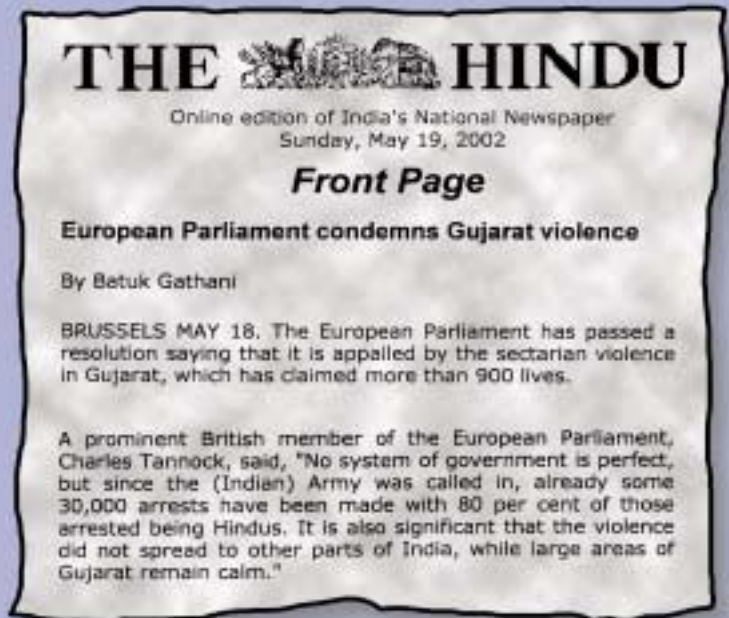


Charles meets a delegation of Ukrainian Parliamentarians and party officials hosted by the Westminster Foundation and Richard Normington as CCO Head of the International Department.



Cross Party Europarlimentary Football Team with its two managers, Charles and Timothy Kirkhope MEP.

Together with Theresa Villiers MEP, Charles addressed the Cyprus national day rally in Trafalgar Square. He remains hopeful that the tragic division of the island can be resolved in time for its accession to the EU envisaged for 2004.



European Parliament condemns Gujarat violence

By Betuk Gathani

BRUSSELS MAY 18. The European Parliament has passed a resolution saying that it is appalled by the sectarian violence in Gujarat, which has claimed more than 900 lives.

A prominent British member of the European Parliament, Charles Tannock, said, "No system of government is perfect, but since the (Indian) Army was called in, already some 30,000 arrests have been made with 80 per cent of those arrested being Hindus. It is also significant that the violence did not spread to other parts of India, while large areas of Gujarat remain calm."



John Bowis MEP, Charles and James Elles MEP in Oxford

Charles attended the inaugural conference of the European Ideas Network, set-up by James Elles MEP in Oxford to look at new Conservative ideas across Europe, and participated in the debates on security and defence and the very delicate issues of pensions, the demographic time bomb, and how to fund and solve these problems. Charles is sceptical that large-scale immigration to Europe is a solution, not least because it will deprive developing countries of those with valuable skills, and in so doing cause an inevitable secondary exodus of unskilled poor, as the affected countries are trapped in a downward cycle of poverty and dependence.

