



# Marina Yannakoudakis

## Conservative MEP for London



**LATEST NEWS**

[www.marinayannakoudakis.com](http://www.marinayannakoudakis.com)

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# SUPPORTING SMALL BUSINESS

As a former businesswoman, Marina believes that it is important to support business, especially small and medium sized firms. 99% of start-ups in Europe are micro or small enterprises. Those employing fewer than 10 people make up for 91% of EU businesses. Marina believes that the European Union should be making it easier for small companies to operate and she has fought EU plans to weigh down businesses with more red tape.

Marina authored proposals in the European Parliament to tackle the problem of poor levels of female entrepreneurship. Marina is also working on new EU plans to promote the competitiveness of European SMEs. The new proposals will address some of the difficulties SMEs face in accessing finance. Marina will also ensure that the report



**ENTREPRENEURS: Speech on women in business at the Polish Embassy**

promotes a business environment which is conducive to start-ups and growth, freeing SMEs from burdensome over-regulation.

When addressing members of the Federation of Small Business in March she talked about some of the EU grants available to SMEs, such as the European Investment Fund and the entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme. Marina also signed up to be a Champion for Real-Life Entrepreneurs. By signing the pledge, she has re-committed herself to getting the best deal for British start-ups.

Marina also met a number of European female entrepreneurs when she took part in a conference on women in business at the Polish Embassy. She told the audience that she believes that quotas for women on company boards are patronising.



**FSB: Marina is a champion for real-life entrepreneurs**

# TURKEY IS NOT READY FOR THE EU

Turkey is a modern, stable, secular, democratic state with one of the fastest growing economies in the world. We should be developing our ties with Turkey, however Marina believes that membership remains a distant prospect until the country addresses three key issues.

The first issue which must be of urgent concern to the Ankara government is women's rights. Turkey is still lagging far behind when it comes to equality. Domestic and sexual violence against women is all too common and the authorities are too lenient on its perpetrators. There are dozens of so-called honour killings each year and Turkey must work harder to eradicate this shameful practice. Turkey must also criminalise forced marriage. The country is a destination and transit country for trafficked women and the Turkish authorities must do more to stamp this out.

Secondly, Turkey must do more to protect the rights of minority communities, especially the Kurds. Kurds must be allowed to be educated in their own language and have the freedom to use Kurdish in the political arena. Finally, Turkey has said it will refuse to work with the Cypriot Presidency of the European Union from 1 July. Marina does not believe that a country which does not recognise one of the 27 Member States of the EU is suitable candidate for membership of the union.



**TALKING TURKEY: Ankara must respect rights of women & Kurds**



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# MARINA VOTES TO SCRAP STRASBOURG

In a vote in the European Parliament in March, MEPs overwhelmingly voted to end the “travelling circus” which sees 736 members and some 3,000 staff and officials shuttle from Brussels to Strasbourg each month.

Conservatives have spearheaded plans to cut this wasteful practice which is supported by a minority of MEPs and only a handful of EU Member States. Of the 184 MEPs who voted against scrapping Strasbourg, over 40% of them were French or German (for a full list of those who voted against the measures see: <http://bit.ly/IPND1s>)

Marina said: “At a time of austerity we need to cut the bloated EU budget. As an MEP, I believe that the European Parliament should be the first to tighten its belt. The most obvious saving is staring us firmly in the face. We need to scrap the Strasbourg seat. We are wasting £180 million each year shuttling backwards and forwards between Brussels and Strasbourg. This travelling circus is making a mockery of the European Parliament and it is time to bring down the curtain on this absurd waste of money.”

Conservative MEPs succeeded in reducing the number of annual trips to Strasbourg from 12 to 11 last year.



## AROUND LONDON

It's been Conservative Association AGM season across London and Marina joined fellow Conservatives at meetings in Beckenham, Greenwich, Brentford



**GREENWICH: With Chairman Malcolm Reid & officers**



**ENFIELD: With David Burrowes MP and Indian 50-plus Association**

and Harrow West. Association AGMs are a good opportunity for Marina to meet with members and to report back on her activities in Brussels and Strasbourg. Marina has been impressed by all the hard work of the voluntary party especially in the run up to the mayoral and GLA elections on May 3.

Marina has been doing her bit too and since her last newsletter, she has helped constituency associations with their campaign activities in Enfield North, Enfield Southgate, Finchley, Wimbledon, Camberwell & Peckham, Hammersmith, Hampstead & Kilburn, Brentford & Isleworth and Chingford. Marina also hosted telecanvassing session at Conservative Campaign Headquarters.

Marina was very pleased with the result of the Southfields by-election on 29 March. Mother-of-two Kim Caddy fought off stiff opposition from Labour to win a seat on Wandsworth Council. The Lib Dem vote collapsed to just 220 ballots cast. Marina said “I enjoyed canvassing with Kim who knows what local residents want. I look forward to working with her as a councillor.”



**HARROW WEST: With Chairman Cllr Lurline Champagnie OBE & association officers**



**KIM CADDY: Marina canvassing with Wandsworth's newest councillor**

### ORGANISED CRIME COMMITTEE

Marina has been appointed as a substitute member of the European Parliament's special committee on organised crime, corruption and money laundering. Organised crime is a serious problem which genuinely affects Londoners. Drug dealing and drug-related robberies, criminal gangs, card-cloning and the trafficking of vulnerable women are all driven by organised criminals.

The EU should not replace the functions of the UK Home Office, however it is important for countries to work together to tackle international organised crime.

### MARINA'S NEW WEBSITE

Marina has redesigned her website to make it easier and more appealing for her constituents to find out about her work in the European Parliament. The site contains news and pictures from Brussels and Strasbourg as well as Marina's events in London. All the parliamentary questions Marina asks to the Commission as well as her newsletters are also on the site at: <http://www.marinayannakoudakis.com>

**PRIZE DRAW:** Visit Marina's website, answer this question and win a prize. Which bridge is featured on the frontpage of the site and what is the connection to Marina's work? Answers to [jenny@marinayannakoudakis.com](mailto:jenny@marinayannakoudakis.com)

**If you would like Marina to attend a London event email: [marina.yannakoudakis@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:marina.yannakoudakis@europarl.europa.eu)**