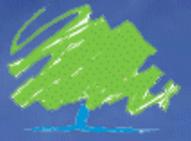




**Marina Yannakoudakis**

Conservative MEP for London



**LATEST NEWS**

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

**February 2012**

# MARINA BATTLES BRUSSELS

Marina agrees with David Cameron when he says that the EU can drive growth and create jobs. She agrees with his calls for the EU to complete the single market and to cut the regulatory burdens on business. In spite of this, sometimes the EU, or at least the European Parliament, loses sight of these objectives and focuses on the irrelevant, the trivial and the often plain ridiculous. Many of the stories that you read in the tabloid newspapers about the European Union are exaggerated or just plain wrong, however in recent weeks Marina has found herself battling against increasingly bonkers proposals from Brussels. She spoke out in the European Parliament against the EU flag on sportsmen's jerseys (*video here:*

<http://youtu.be/15zaJlkYel>), when she did she was barracked and jeered

by Europhiles in the chamber. Marina believes that we need to speak out against the EU becoming a manipulative, propagandist superstate, otherwise her London constituents will lose sight of the benefits of a single market.

You may also have read in *The Daily Mail* about Marina's efforts to block an amendment by the European Parliament's Women's Rights committee which called for "constitutional changes, including succession provisions affecting constitutional monarchies" to ensure gender equality. The European Parliament has no business meddling with the order of succession to the British throne. If the EU is to remain it must address the real issues and get back to its original mandate of a free market suited to today's Europe.



**NO TO EU FLAGS ON SPORTSMEN'S UNIFORMS: Yes to jobs and growth**

# BORIS' CLEAN, GREEN MACHINE



**TICKETS PLEASE: On platform of New Bus for London**

Marina recently had the opportunity to see the new bus for London under construction at the Wrightbus factory in Ballymena, Northern Ireland. The new British-built buses fulfil a campaign promise by Conservative Mayor of London Boris Johnson to rid the capital's streets of the hated bendy bus and while at the same time commissioning a New Bus for London, inspired by the iconic Routemaster.

Marina said "The bus, as well as being a new design classic for London, will use green technology to make it more than twice as fuel efficient as conventional diesel buses and 25% more fuel efficient than even other London hybrid buses. And unlike the bendy bus, it's built in Britain, which is good for the economy." The buses' high-tech design uses composite materials only used on racing yachts until now. It will also emit less than half the NOx (oxides of nitrogen) levels of a conventional diesel double-decker, all for costs comparable to other hybrid double deckers. The buses, which were launched on 27 February, will help London meet its obligations on EU air pollution regulations.

# HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

Marina marked Holocaust Memorial Day both in London and in Brussels. She attended a memorial service to remember the victims of the Holocaust in Barnet alongside local MP and Transport Minister Theresa Villiers. In Brussels she was present at a ceremony in the European Parliament to remember the Nazi genocide and the anniversary of the liberation of the concentration camps. The ceremony was organised by the European Jewish Congress.



**BRUSSELS: With Belgian MEP Frédérique Ries**



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# AROUND LONDON



**HARROW WEST: Backing Boris with association chairman & local councillors**

## BACKING BORIS AND BY-ELECTIONS

Red Ken is narrowing the gap and even overtaking Boris in the opinion polls, so it's crucial that all London Conservatives work together to ensure the mayor's re-election. Marina has been around London canvassing and leafleting as well as attending fundraisers for Boris 2012 campaign.

In January, your London MEP was knocking on doors in Harrow West with association chairman Cllr Lurline Champagne and her fellow Harrow Councillors. This was followed by a trip to Worcester Park to supporting both Boris and local council by-election candidate Simon Dursley.

Marina was also in Blackheath with party activists from Greenwich and Lewisham to support Boris and local GLA candidate Cllr Alex Wilson. Boris won Greenwich



**BLACKHEATH: With Greenwich and Lewisham Conservatives & GLA candidate Alex Wilson**



**SHOREDITCH: With GLA candidates John Moss and Naomi Newstead**

in 2008; support for Boris and Alex on the doorstep was strong and we hope that Boris can prevail again in London's latest Royal Borough. Marina teamed up with local MP Mary Macleod in Hounslow earlier this month. They canvassed together and were joined by local councillors. She was also joined by Chipping Barnet MP Theresa Villiers for a Back Boris action day in Oakleigh Park. Marina has also attended a number of fundraisers to support Boris and GLA candidates. She joined the mayor and GLA candidates John Moss & Naomi Newstead at a benefit at Shoreditch Town Hall. She was also at a fundraising dinner in Orpington attended by the mayor, his brother and local MP Jo Johnson, Bromley and Chislehurst MP Bob Neil and GLA Members James Cleverly and Gareth Bacon.



**ORPINGTON: With local MP and mayor's brother Jo Johnson**

**Campaigning for Boris – 03/03: Battersea; 10/03: Lewisham; 17/03: Clapham. Call 020 8445 8055 to join Marina.**



**NORTHWOOD: With Nick Hurd MP**

## EVENTS

Marina visited the Northwood Branch of the Ruislip Northwood and Pinner association in January for their branch AGM. She met with local MP Nick Hurd, association chairman Ray Graham and Northwood branch chairman Cllr. Carol Melvin and informed members about her work in Brussels and Strasbourg. Marina also visited Chigwell for a dinner organised by the Ilford North and Chingford & Woodford Green associations. Education Secretary Michael Gove was the guest speaker.

## VISITING CHILDLINE

On its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary Marina visited ChildLine's London base to find out more about how children are counselled by the help line's volunteers on issues from bullying to sexual abuse. Marina was shown around the centre and introduced to volunteers by ChildLine president Esther Rantzen CBE. Marina was the MEP following and reporting on sexual abuse, sexual exploitation of children and child pornography in the Women's Rights Committee. She worked on measures in the European Parliament to stop child abuse, block access to child pornography and criminalise the sexual grooming of children. Marina will be organising an event in Brussels for the victims of child abuse later this year.



**ON CALL: With Esther**

## OLYMPICS

Marina visited the Olympic Park under construction in East London. She was shown around the various venues and briefed on the legacy. "The most positive factor is that the site has been built in view of longevity and facilities can be adapted after the Olympics for local use", said Marina. "I look forward to the Olympics show-casing my home city across the world."



## AT BAITUL FUTUH MOSQUE



**MERTON: With councillors Lord Ahmad & Oonagh Moulton**  
In Morden, Marina visited the largest mosque in the EU and the headquarters of the Ahmadiyya Muslim community. She learned about the community's activities especially the work of its women's auxiliary. She will be meeting with an Ahmadiyya women's group to discuss common interests in March.

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