



Marina Yannakoudakis

Conservative MEP for London



LATEST NEWS

www.marinayannakoudakis.com

January 2012

CAMERON PLAYS A BLINDER

He came. He saw. He vetoed. Prime Minister David Cameron's refusal to give in to unrealistic demands by European partners led to the UK's first ever veto of an EU Treaty. As London Mayor Boris Johnson said, the Prime Minister "played a blinder" by refusing to accept a treaty without a guarantee of safeguards for British interests.

The Prime Minister recognises that there needs to be tougher fiscal discipline in the euro zone. The euro zone is in a mess and it is in Britain's interests to see a solution to the problems of the single currency. However, Britain also must defend the single market and ensure that the important UK financial services industry is not unfairly disadvantaged.

As a London MEP, Marina has campaigned hard against an EU Financial Transaction Tax and understands how we need to protect the City – Europe's leading financial centre – from intrusive European regulation. As the euro zone countries now embark on a new fiscal union, they must respect the EU veto and take the opportunity to find solutions to the euro zone crisis rather than try to introduce new bureaucratic barriers.



**LET ME SHAKE YOU BY THE HAND:
Marina and PM David Cameron**

DOING THE ROUNDS: MRI & CORD BLOOD

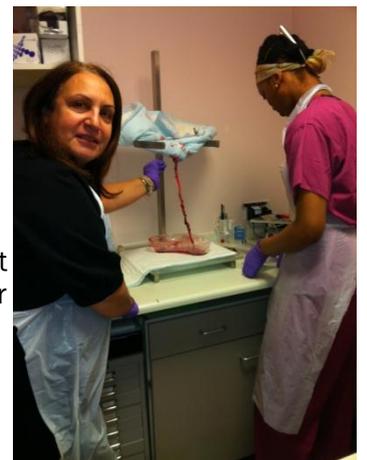


SCANTASTIC: Marina inspects 3T MRI scanner

Marina has been visiting London hospitals to prepare her work as a member of the European Parliament's Committee on Environment, Food Safety and Public Health. In December she visited St. Thomas' Hospital in Westminster where she went to see a 3T (higher image quality) MRI scanner and met with Reza Razavi Professor of Paediatric Cardiovascular Science at King's College London. Prof. Razavi is a pioneer of cardiac magnetic resonance imaging and performed the world's first cardiac catheterisation procedures using interventional MRI. Marina is working on the EU's Electromagnetic Fields Directive and is pushing to ensure that inflexible health and safety rules don't prevent Prof. Razavi from saving patients' lives with the aid of MRI scanners.

At the beginning of January, Marina also visited Barnet General to meet with the staff of NHS Blood and Transplant at the hospital's Cord Blood Collection Room. She learned more about how umbilical cord blood stem cells can be used to treat cancer, immune deficiencies and genetic disorders.

Marina is currently drafting an EU report on the donation of tissues and cells. In the report she plans to raise awareness of cord blood donation. "Donating umbilical cord blood after the birth of a child is easy," said Marina. "In creating a life you can help save another, as the stem cells in the cord blood can help treat conditions such as leukaemia and sickle cell anaemia. Cord blood stem cells are even being used to repair vascular injuries after heart attacks." Unfortunately there are currently too few mothers donating umbilical cord blood. About 440 patients die needlessly each year because they cannot find the right cord blood match. Improving registries could dramatically reduce this figure.



LIFESAVING: Cord blood donation at Barnet General



Follow Marina on Twitter at: @MarinaMEP



Find Marina on Facebook at: <http://facebook.com/MarinaMEP>



Marina's YouTube channel: <http://www.youtube.com/user/MarinaMEP>

Published monthly by email. Subscription requests to: marina.yannakoudakis@europarl.europa.eu

AROUND LONDON

CAMPAIGNING



FELTHAM & HESTON: With Minister Justine Greening, CF Chair Ben Howlett and National Best Practice Coordinator Janice Lavery

The period before Christmas was especially busy for Marina as she knocked on doors and delivered leaflets to support candidates for national and local by-elections as well as working hard to ensure Boris' re-election in May. Marina was canvassing with the Secretary of State for Transport Justine Greening in Feltham and Heston where a parliamentary by-election took place on 15 December. There was a double council by-election in Coombe Vale Ward, where Conservatives celebrated the election of Lynne Finnerty and Julie Pickering to Kingston-upon-Thames Council. Marina joined Lynne and Julie earlier in December to help get out the vote. The last by-election of the year was held just 3 days before Christmas in Brent's Wembley Central ward. Marina joined local Association Chairman Mike Moradian in canvassing for Conservative candidate Madhuri Davda.

December also saw Marina in Hayes in Beckenham constituency in for the remarkable turn out of "all three layers of legislators" when Marina, as MEP, joined local MP Colonel Bob Stewart and the area's London Assembly member, James Cleverly. Marina, Bob and James were delivering Boris surveys with GLA top-up candidate Chris Hampsheir, Association Chairman Tony Power and members of CF.



COOMBE VALE: With candidates in dual by-election



HAYES: Campaigning with Bob Stewart and James Cleverly

Marina will be campaigning for Boris in Hounslow South on Sat 11 February. Call 020 8445 8055 to join.

SOCIAL EVENTS

The Harrow East Conservative Association had its annual dinner in December and Marina joined members in enjoying an entertaining speech by Communities Secretary Eric Pickles. Marina was also able to catch up with old friends and colleagues from the association including local MP Bob Blackman, Association Chairman Cllr Marilyn Ashton and GLA candidate Sachin Rajput. On the same day Marina spoke at a Christmas coffee morning organised by the Haringey Conservative Women's Association where she talked about her role as an MEP, especially her work on the Women's Rights and Gender Equality Committee.



HARROW: With Eric Pickles, Bob Blackman, Cllr Marilyn Ashton & Sachin Rajput (photo by Cllr Husain Akhtar)



SUPPORTING AFGHAN WOMEN: Clementine Malpas

HELPING CONSTITUENTS

Marina recently met with London filmmaker Clementine Malpas. Clementine's film on the abuse of Afghan women "In-Justice" is currently being suppressed by the EU's office in Kabul in spite of being funded by the EU's Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights. The EU wasted £60,000 of taxpayers' money in paying for a film which it now withholds. Marina has lobbied the European Commission to release the film. "We must not shy away from bringing to light injustices suffered by Afghan women as well as the dysfunctional Afghan justice system," she said.

Marina also met with Enfield North MP Nick de Bois and Tim Childs, Managing Director of Rimex Metals. Rimex is a company with over a fifty-year history in North London with a staff of more than 100. The EU is threatening to ban the use of chromium trioxide and chromic acid, which Rimex uses for metal finishing. A ban could threaten jobs and Marina is helping Rimex lobby the European Commission not to include chromium trioxide and chromic acid on the list of banned substances and to find ways to apply for special authorisation to use the chemicals if the ban is introduced.

LIMB LOSS DAY

3 December 2011 was the first ever European Limb Loss Day. As Conservative Spokesman on Health in the European Parliament, Marina was invited by the Parliamentary Limb Loss Group to speak at an event to mark the day at the House of Commons. Marina spoke about the need to support those who have lost limbs as well as their friends and families. In the UK as we have had a sharp rise in the number of those who have lost limbs through health problems such as diabetes as well as those of our brave service personnel who have lost limbs in the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.



With Sam Gallup CBE of the Parliamentary Limb Loss Group who lost his legs in a Spitfire crash in 1944

If you would like Marina to attend a London event email: marina.yannakoudakis@europarl.europa.eu