



Emma McClarkin

MEP for the East Midlands



Your European Parliamentary report from Emma McClarkin MEP

Summer 2011

Dear Colleague,

I was delighted to meet a lot of you while campaigning across the region in the local elections and against AV, and I now find myself once again campaigning against some mad ideas coming out of Brussels.

One campaign I've become involved with is for radical change to the European Fisheries Policy, which is gathering pace following the 'Big Fish Fight' campaign.

Closer to home, I'm delighted to be taking part in a couple of events in aid of very good causes, including the fantastic charity *Help for Heroes*. I hope many of you will join me in supporting them, and I look forward to seeing you out and about over the summer.

Emma McClarkin

SUPPORTING SMALL BUSINESS

I was very pleased to recently join the Federation of Small Businesses in a visit to Hinckley United Football Club to discuss the pressures that local football clubs and small businesses are under at the moment.

People often forget that football clubs are businesses too, and have a lot of the same costs as any other business. It was good to meet the Directors of Hinckley United FC, and they raised issues regarding the rise in overhead costs such as utilities and business rates, level of

attendance level, and the way the tax burden affected the club.



I'm very keen to help them grow and expand, and will be taking some of their issues and raising them to try to improve the situation for small businesses.

On a more positive note, I was delighted to hear how Hinckley United work with the local community, especially in cultivating such strong junior and girls teams - The club supports a number of girls' teams as well as a strong age 7 - 16 junior section.

EMMA SLAMS SPANISH PROPERTY LEGISLATION

I couldn't quite believe my ears recently when I heard that Spain's development minister had launched a campaign 'roadshow' to encourage British people to invest in Spanish property.

British families have invested in homes in Spain, only to have those properties seized by the state because of retrospectively applied planning laws, often resulting in the owners being forced to pay substantial sums for demolition or to rent land already bought.

Over the years I have heard heart-breaking stories from local residents who invested

their savings into a holiday or retirement home in Spain, only to lose everything. Spain's planning 'laws' are unjust and completely disgraceful.

The European Parliament's petitions committee has also heard from dozens of victims, and passed a report in 2009 calling on the Spanish authorities to rethink their laws. To date, they've ignored the call.

I will continue to campaign for Spain to bring its planning laws into the 21st century, but in the meantime I would advise people to steer well clear.

EMMA WINNING THE FISH FIGHT

The European Commission has published proposals to bring an end to fish discards, as highlighted recently by the big fish fight campaign. However they do not go far enough in devolving responsibility for fisheries management down to a more local level.

Whilst these proposals are a step in the right direction, they are far less ambitious than the CFP needs. The best people to make decisions about fisheries management are fishermen themselves and scientists, not bureaucrats in Brussels.

After a long campaign we will finally see movement to end the immoral practice of dumping dead but edible fish back into the sea. This is thanks to the British people who signed up to Hugh



Fearnley-Whittingstall's campaign which gave the final push to bring the practice of discards to an end.

Whilst this announcement kicks off a long debate about what kind of future we want for the Common Fisheries Policy, nothing short of a fundamental reform is acceptable.

For more updates visit www.emmamclarkin.com

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Conservatives



European Conservatives and Reformists Group

NEW FOOD LABELLING RULES

In parliament recently we voted to support new food labelling rules which will give consumers greater information regarding country of origin for meat and nutritional qualities.

The new regulation will see all fresh meat given a Country of Origin Label, and there will be further investigation by the European Commission into whether such labelling can also be extended to dairy products, meat in processed foods, single ingredient products and ingredients that represent more than 50% of a food.

The law will also require mandatory back of pack nutritional labelling with at least the energy value together with fat,

saturates, sugars and salt per 100ml or 100g. Front of pack labelling will be voluntary.

With these regulations consumers will get clearer information about the food they buy. Labelling needs to be clear and relevant but it should not be overcomplicated or burdensome of food producers.

I believe that this labelling for meat is a significant step forward. With increasing awareness of food miles and product traceability it is all the more important that we have honest labelling that gives consumers the power to make informed choices.

RAISING MONEY FOR CHARITIES

This year I am once again teaming up with new High Peak MP Andrew Bingham on a couple of events to raise money for good causes.

This August we did another 'High Peak Hike', walking for three days following the path of the Roman Road from Glossop to Buxton via Brough, a total distance of about 30 miles.

We have so far raised over £1000, which will go to Help for Heroes, who do fantastic work supporting service men and women who are wounded in the line of duty.



You can still support us by visiting www.justgiving.com/romanramble or by calling my office on 01858 419709.

Following our hike, later in September we will be doing a charity abseil down Miller's Dale viaduct in Derbyshire, this time in aid of New Mills Volunteer Centre. Again you can support me on this by phoning my office.

I hope that many of you are able to support us on either or both of these events, and help us raise money for such worthwhile causes.

EURO FLAG ON SPORTS KITS: ANOTHER MAD EU IDEA!

I was stunned recently when Members of the European Parliament - including Lib Dem and Labour Members - backed calls to fly the EU flag at sporting events held in its territory and, even worse, to have the EU emblem on national team shirts.

The proposals state that all national sports teams, including football, rugby, cricket and the British Olympic team, would be forced to have the EU's blue flag with yellow stars appear on their jerseys.



Needless to say I am completely outraged by the suggestion. The EU has no business interfering in the badges worn on national team shirts - it is just another example of the EU vanity project at work.

The EU cannot impose an artificial European identity on us by forcing our athletes to wear its emblem. Can you imagine Wayne Rooney or Jessica Ennis walking out into the arena sporting an EU flag on their kit? It is simply daft and I will be forcefully opposing this hair-brained plan at every opportunity.

OUT AND ABOUT



ABOVE: Emma with Councillor Judith Twigg and Derbyshire County Council Chairman George Wharmby

RIGHT: Emma in Skegness with the RNLI, at the launch of the new inshore Lifeboat 'Peterborough Beer Festival IV'.



ABOVE: Emma with pupils at Leicester High School for Girls, as part of a day visiting schools in the Leicester area.



LEFT: Emma out and about in Geddington, campaigning earlier this year for the local elections with Cllr. Jonathan Bullock.

RIGHT: Emma helping earlier this year at the local elections in Bassetlaw with our youngest recruit, Sam Taylor.



EMMA McCLARKIN MEP - Fighting for the East Midlands in Europe

Conservative MEPs representing the East Midlands are Emma McClarkin and Roger Helmer.