



# Emma McClarkin

## MEP for the East Midlands



Your European Parliamentary report from Emma McClarkin MEP

Winter 2011

*Dear Colleague,*

2011 has been a very busy year. Locally we won seats in the local elections, and we won the AV referendum by a huge margin. I'm so pleased to have helped so many of you in working for these victories.

I've been equally busy in Europe. As Conservative spokesman for Culture and Sport I've been at the forefront of our fight against such mad ideas as putting the EU flag on national sports kits, as well as writing various reports, such as an internal market report that seeks to encourage mobility for professionals.

So although 2011 has been very hectic for me, I've enjoyed it immensely, and will continue to defend the interests of the East Midlands in 2012. All that remains is for me to wish you a very merry Christmas, and a happy New Year.

*Emma McClarkin*

# EUROZONE CRISIS

**The financial crisis in Europe has deepened as the year has progressed. Volatile markets, bigger bailouts for Greece and a worrying outlook for the global economy have conspired to leave us in a desperate situation.**

The debt crisis is getting worse, not better. Perhaps most importantly, growth is stagnant, with GDP among the Eurozone members expected to increase by just 1.7%. Thank God we did not join the Euro. However, this doesn't mean we are not affected.



European leaders need to take decisive steps to resolve the debt crisis and stabilise the banking system. But what Europe really needs is a plan for growth and jobs. We must unleash innovation and enterprise. We need to reduce red tape and open up to global markets.

Our top priority should be to build a flexible, dynamic labour market that will provide for a competitive economy. Without stronger political ambition and fundamental reform the Eurozone's future economic prospects look bleak indeed. The EU needs to take its head out of the sand, the time for action is now.

## PROJECT UMUBANO: SUPPORTING RWANDA

**This summer I joined the Party's fifth annual Social Action Project Umubano in Rwanda to gain a better understanding of how we are delivering international Development overseas and supporting growing nations like Rwanda.**

Whilst there we opened a school and new medical centre and I visited cooperatives in outlying villages with ActionAid, as well as getting my hands dirty making bricks and laying the foundations for new classrooms in Kigali.



It was a privilege to have been asked to take part in the first Governance project with the Rwandan Senate with the overall aim of improving transparency and democracy in Rwanda. Exchanging knowledge with Senators and their support staff was a thoroughly rewarding experience and I hope we have left them with a legacy to carry forward and build on. Just as we want to build foundations for education, health and business so too I hope in a small way we are helping to build better democracy at all levels in Rwanda.

## 'BENEFITS TOURISM' BOOM?

**I've recently criticised an EU ruling which says that the UK has to start paying social security to non-UK nationals. I fear that this ruling will lead to a boom in 'benefits tourism', with our generous welfare system being the destination of choice.**

Under UK law, certain social security benefits are only granted to persons with a 'right to reside' in the UK. So while UK nationals have the right to reside solely based on their UK citizenship, other EU nationals have to fulfil additional conditions in order to pass the right to reside test.

If people from other EU states with the right to reside are living and working here then that's fine, they should be entitled to the same benefits as everyone else because they are contributing to society. But if people do not pay into the system, why should they have free entitlement to what comes out?

Social benefits should not be a free for all – especially in these difficult financial times. The EU is again sticking its nose into the business of member states, and this ruling is clear interference in our domestic affairs by unelected bureaucrats in Europe.

For more updates visit [www.emmamclarkin.com](http://www.emmamclarkin.com)

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Conservatives



European Conservatives and Reformists Group

# Out & About With EMMA Mc

## Supporting Conservation at Twycross Zoo

I visited the fabulous Twycross Zoo earlier this year, and have nothing but admiration for the important work it is undertaking to protect the environment and raise awareness of serious conservation issues.

Pipe, and John Buchan, who is Head of Primates. They told me all about the various conservation projects that are taking place at the zoo, and showed me the new Himalaya Centre that was opened last year.

I was given a tour of the Zoo by their Head of Education, Claire

The research, education and conservation work that the zoo does is really important, and it was fascinating to hear about everything they're doing to help animals both at the zoo and in the wild. It is a great asset to the region and I highly recommend a day out there.



*At Twycross Zoo in Leicestershire to discuss conservation issues*



*With Amanda Solloway and Adrian Pegg at Mid Derbyshire and Derby Conservatives Golf Day*



*Campaigning in Broxtowe with Richard Jackson earlier this year*



*Out and about in Leicester South with Ross Grant and Jane Hunt*



*With constituent Diana T presenting the World Horse Welfare stand with East Midlands p*



*With South Holland and The Deepings Conservative Future*

## Campaigning with World Horse Welfare

One of the most frequent issues raised with me by people in the East Midlands is the issue of horse welfare, especially of horses driven long distances across Europe.

Journeys across Europe for these horses can last

for days, with little or no food, water, or rest. I'm therefore campaigning for the European Commission to change transport regulations to introduce regulations such as a maximum journey limit of 9 - 12 hours.

I'm sure that people across Midlands would be shocked and the condition these horses wouldn't acc Britain, and I hard to ensu longer happ Europe.

# Out in 2011

## CLARKIN MEP



Supporting Apprenticeships on a Parliamentary Industry Trust visit to Rolls Royce



With new recruits at their swearing in ceremony in Leicester



Meeting with Simon Fisher of the NFU at the Lincolnshire Show



Campaigning against AV this April with Aaron Spencer in Boston



With pupils on a visit to Nottingham Girls' School



With Tom Green, President of Northampton West Rotary Club

### Tackling Lincolnshire Coastal Issues

After a Q&A session in Skegness I thought it would be a good idea to host a conference to discuss the many issues raised affecting the Lincolnshire coastline.

Lincolnshire County Council leader Cllr Martin Hill OBE, and Environment Agency Area Manager Andy Baxendale for speaking on the day.

So at Skegness this Autumn I held a coastal conference to discuss a variety of issues specific to Lincolnshire coastal areas including flood defences, tourism and jobs.

I was very pleased that over 40 councillors, local representatives and interested parties were present. It was a great opportunity to discuss coastal issues with many of the people involved in making decisions for the future of our coastline.

I'm grateful to Boston and Skegness MP Mark Simmonds,

**If there is an issue in your area that you would like to discuss, please get in touch with me.**



Hosting my Lincolnshire Coastal Conference in Skegness

# IMPROVING PROFESSIONALS' MOBILITY ACROSS EUROPE

Many EU professionals who are legally established in their home country, cannot currently work in another EU Member State due to bureaucratic delays in recognition of their qualifications. Conversely, there have also been a number of cases where adequate checks of qualifications have not taken place.

Over in Brussels I have been the Rapporteur of the European Parliament's report on the Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications. This will hopefully feed ideas into the Commission's proposal in this area. They are looking at a number of measures to improve the current system. Possible measures include a Professional Card, a modernisation of the decades old requirements for training and most importantly an EU-wide alert mechanism for professionals with outstanding fitness to practice claims.

The ability of professionals to provide services and gain employment in

other Member States is a tangible example of how EU citizens can benefit from the Single Market. Enhancing this mobility is crucial if we are to encourage innovation and stimulate growth.

At the moment we have a paradoxical situation. Some professionals are facing unnecessary obstacles to employment in other Member States. At the same time, other professionals, particularly in the healthcare sector, are employed without holding the required skills and competences - potentially threatening patient and consumer safety.

I want professionals to have better access to information on how they can get their qualifications recognised and for the recognition procedure to be sped up and simplified whilst ensuring the highest standard of service for consumer and patient safety.

# STAYING IN TOUCH

I always try to keep you up to date with everything I'm doing, both in Brussels and across the East Midlands.

One way of doing this is my website, which is continually updated with news about what I'm doing. You can visit it at [www.emmamclarkin.com](http://www.emmamclarkin.com) or by scanning the QR code on the right with your smartphone.



# WISHING ROGER HELMER WELL IN HIS RETIREMENT

As Roger's fellow MEP for the East Midlands, I know first-hand just how hard he has fought and worked for Britain's interests in Europe.

Parliament he has represented the East Midlands and its constituents with great passion.

He has been a vociferous defender of the UK in Brussels and extremely active in the region supporting businesses, farming communities



Roger has been a colourful character in East Midlands politics. Over his 12 years' service as a Conservative Member of the European

as well as numerous local campaigns with great vigour.

I wish him well and hope he enjoys his well-deserved retirement.

# HELPING FEMALE ENTREPRENEURS

I've recently backed a report in the European Parliament by fellow Conservative MEP Marina Yannakoudakis, which aims to create a wave of new female entrepreneurs.

available - such as special grants, social security provisions and venture capital - to give women fair access to business start-up and expansion cash.

The economic crisis means more women are wanting to return to work or start businesses, and I agree wholeheartedly that unleashing the potential of female

entrepreneurship will not only mean greater opportunity for women but could play a big part in reviving the economy.

The aim of the report was to encourage EU countries and local authorities to make better use of funding already

Many young mums are

looking to become self-employed or start up their own companies. These 'mumpreneurs' are a growing phenomenon

and I hope this report will help swell the ranks of female-owned businesses.

We must give working mothers and other women the flexibility and support they need for their business and leadership skills to blossom.

