

## LANGUAGE TESTS AND PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION

I've recently been negotiating on proposed legislation to allow key professional qualifications to be recognised across Europe and also to ensure the correct checks are in place.

I'm pleased to say that I've been successful in protecting a number of key positions:

- That doctors from overseas should have to pass a language test.
- That all member states should be alerted if a professional faces disciplinary action or suspension anywhere in the EU.
- That our medical qualification courses should be recognised without being extended to 6 years arbitrarily by the EU.

I know that concern over the language ability of overseas doctors has been growing and it is vital, in the interests of patient safety and public health, that these new rules should enable relevant authorities to ask doctors from other EU countries to undergo a language test, when appropriate.

Thanks to the balance and safeguards I have achieved, this report will make it easier for professionals to get access to work in the rest of Europe as the procedures for recognition of qualifications will be quicker.

It will make professional labour more mobile and generally speed up the process - but crucially, patient safety will be protected and improved.



## HORSEMEAT SCANDAL

Following the recent horsemeat scandal which has outraged millions of consumers – not just in the UK, but across Europe – I have called on the Commission to account for any failures at EU level and I have asked how it intends to step up enforcement.

We must have full traceability and full information available in meat production and processing.

It is vitally important that we take whatever action is needed to ensure that food producers cannot do something similar in future.

This is also linked to the horse transportation issue which I have been working on for some time, trying to get improvements to animal transportation conditions. I am now doing everything I can to move the horsemeat issue up the political agenda in Europe. Consumers have a right to know what is in their food and where it has come from.



**Emma McClarkin**  
MEP for the East Midlands



Your European Parliamentary report from Emma McClarkin MEP

Spring 2013

## EU REFERENDUM—TIME TO TALK ABOUT EUROPE

Having campaigned for a referendum I was delighted with the Prime Minister's recent pledge to give the British people their say on Europe with a referendum.

It is a vote that is long overdue. I fully believe that the EU is a matter of utmost importance and that we need to get ourselves on a better footing.

The Prime Minister is determined to review and, where necessary, repatriate a number of powers such as social and employment law - and my fellow Conservative MEPs and I are working with him to do just that. It is a key step to increase our competitiveness and help us towards creating real growth and getting our economy back on track.

I work every day to push back the tide of legislation and stop the EU encroaching on UK competence and sovereignty. It's time to start making decisions in our best interests and bringing back powers.

So what powers might be brought back and what might our new relationship with the EU look like?

I have been working with the Fresh Start project started by fellow East Midlanders Andrea Leadsom MP and Chris Heaton-Harris MP, which has begun to put meat on the bones, and look at specific areas of EU legislation, mapping out options for change. There is much we can do to negotiate a better relationship for the UK with the EU.



The EU needs fundamental change based on new principles that enable it to compete in a fierce global environment. It needs the root and branch reform we Conservatives have been calling for.

And now the British people will be given their say on whether that is a relationship they want. The last time we had a referendum was 1975. A whole generation have never had their say on our relationship with the EU. Now is the time.

We Conservatives are the only party that can deliver an In/Out referendum. It's time to talk about Europe.

*Emma McClarkin*

Let me know your views with my EU survey inside.

## AN END TO FISH DISCARDS AT LAST

Good news! The Big Fishfight campaigners and supporters will be delighted that the EU has finally listened and brought the practice of wasteful discards to an end.

Having campaigned long and hard, I was very pleased at the historic vote in Strasbourg this February which will bring an end to fish discards under the EU's Common Fisheries Policy.

This is great news for our fish and East Midlands Fishermen but also to all of us who wish to continue to enjoy our fish and chips!

These reforms will wrestle control away from the micro-managers in Brussels who have made such an absolute mess of fisheries policy for the past 30 years.

We will also see an urgent timetable set out for an absolute ban on the scandal of dumping and discarding of perfectly good fish.

Every vote counted; as did every letter and signature of support. We still have a long road ahead to get the reforms right, but the vote in Strasbourg was a huge and long-overdue step on the road to reform of the CFP.



Emma with Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall

## MEMBERS' EU SURVEY

I'd like to know your feelings about the EU, so I would be grateful if you could take a moment to answer the following questions and return the survey to me at the address below.

**1** Would you describe yourself as generally pro-European or anti-European?

- Pro-European
- Anti-European
- Unsure

**2** What is your view of the UK being in the EU?

- It's a good thing
- It's a bad thing
- Don't know/Indifferent

**3** What are your feelings about David Cameron offering an EU referendum?

- Pleased
- Displeased
- Indifferent

**4** If an EU Referendum were held tomorrow, how would you vote?

- Stay in the EU
- Leave the EU
- Don't know

**5** Think ahead to the EU Referendum to be held in 2017. If negotiations in the meantime had managed to bring some powers back from the EU, how do you think you would vote?

- Stay in the EU
- Leave the EU
- Don't know
- It would depend which powers

Please return the completed survey to: **Emma McClarkin MEP, Ground Floor Suite, Three Crowns Yard, High Street, Market Harborough, LE16 7AF.**

You can also complete the survey on my website, [www.emmamclarkin.com](http://www.emmamclarkin.com), or e-mail your response to: [emmamclarkin@eastmidsmeps.co.uk](mailto:emmamclarkin@eastmidsmeps.co.uk)

### Conservative Policy Forum tackles Europe

I've been extremely happy to take part in Conservative Policy Forum discussions about Europe across the region.

The Prime Minister's recent promise of an EU referendum has really energised the debate and we are able to finally start talking about

Europe - the crisis it is facing, what reforms need to take place, and the relationship we want with the EU. I have been super impressed with the level of debate and look forward to it continuing up until a referendum.

I met a lot of members at the events I went to—some of them old friends, and some who I met for the first time. CPF is really working well in engaging members and reaching out to new Conservatives. It's a really good way of discussing policy in a friendly environment, and I'd encourage everyone to go along and take part.



With Trevor Peat and Mark Spencer MP at the CPF event in Hucknall



Great debate at the Northampton South CPF event in February.



Speaking at a Europe CPF lunch in Bassetlaw, Nottinghamshire.

# Across the East Midlands With EMMA McCLARKIN MEP



With members at Lincolnshire Conservative Policy Forum



At a 'Women in Politics' event in Nottingham earlier this year.



Discussing clinical trials at the Children's Brain Tumour Research Centre in Nottingham



With leaders of councils from across the East Midlands



At my European Information Lunch in Kegworth, Leicestershire



Speaking about CAP Reform with the NFU in Great Easton



Visiting the Majestic Theatre Group in Retford



At the CNO Conference in Derbyshire

### Conservative Women's Organisation conference

On Saturday 23rd February I attended the first regional women's conference at Morley Hayes Golf Club, which was organised by Chairman Amanda Solloway.

We had a great agenda filled with a host of interesting speakers, such as Edwina Currie, Nicky Morgan MP, Jessica Lee MP, Brooks

Newmark MP - who founded the Women2Win organisation - and many more, including local councillors Julie Platt and Amy Plenderleith, Magistrate Paula Hammonds and CPF activist John Cowpe.

I was invited to speak about Europe and my work in Brussels and Strasbourg,

which sparked a discussion about various issues, such as the recent horsemeat scandal and the question of UK's membership of the EU.

We are lucky to have so many passionate women in the East Midlands who want to contribute to policy and their communities.

### Visiting Lincolnshire Fire Service

Following on from my Fire Safety campaign, earlier this year I visited Lincolnshire Fire Training Unit in Waddington.

Having experienced the horror of fire when younger, I'm always keen to promote fire safety in the home, as well as pay tribute to the incredible

work done by fire services across the East Midlands.

I heard from them first hand their concerns about the

unforeseen consequences of EU legislation on increasing fire risks, as well as the impact on fire service operations. I will continue to raise the issue of fire safety in the EU and keep fighting for high safety standards.

We are extremely lucky to have such a wonderful first class training facility in the region and such a dedicated fire service. It was a pleasure spending time with them.

**If there are any issues in your area that you would like to discuss, please get in touch.**



Visiting Lincolnshire Fire Service



At Leicester High School for Girls earlier this year.